Shojo Beat

Short-Tempered Melancholic and Other Stories

Short-Tempered Melancholic

Kajika Yamano is a female ninja whose job is to protect her family's legendary weapon. But when a boy she has a crush on tells her she should be more ladylike, she vows to give up all ninja deeds.

Rainy Afternoons Are for Romantic Heroines

Minori falls in love with Takato, a boy who shared his umbrella with her one rainy afternoon. Now she "forgets" her umbrella every time it rains in hopes of becoming closer to him.

This Love Is Nonfiction

Yuri sends her pen pal Ryo a picture of herself—but it's really of her best friend Karin, who is prettier than she is. Now Ryo wants to meet her, so she has no choice but to send Karin instead!

The Style of the Second Love

Mana secretly likes her friend's boyfriend, but Nakamura, a younger boy, is determined to win Mana's heart.

Includes the debut manga by the creator of *Full Moon* and *The Gentlemen's Alliance†*

Story & Art by

Arina Tanemura

Shojo Beat Manga

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Short-Tempered
Melancholic

LISTEN TO ME, KAJIKA.
SOMEONE IS AFTER OUR FAMILY'S LEGENDARY WEAPON. I'VE BEEN TOLD THAT THE NINJA KNOWN AS HAYATO IS ON THE MOVE.
YOU MUST NOT LET ANYONE KNOW YOU ARE A KUNOICHI.
KAJIKA, WE'LL BE LATE FOR SCHOOL!
I'M COMING!
IT'S YOUNG TANIMOTO ...
KAJIKA !!

I'M NOT DONE TALKING TO YOU!!
TUP
DON'T WORRY, GRANDPA!
IF ANYONE ATTACKS, I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT!
SEE YOU LATER!

Argh! YOU'RE AS ANNOYING AS AN OCTOPUS IN MY EAR!
Enough !!
I WAS JUST TRYING TO HELP ...
NINJA BLOOD HAS FLOWED THROUGH MY FAMILY'S VEINS FOR GENERATIONS.
YOU SHOULD TREAT YOUR GRANDFATHER WITH MORE RESPECT.
HE ONLY SAYS THOSE THINGS BECAUSE HE CARES ABOUT YOU.
GRANDPA HAS BEEN SAYING FOR YEARS THAT I HAVE TO HIDE MY SKILL AND PRETEND TO BE NORMAL, BUT...
OH NO! THAT CHILD!

SKREEK
WHEN I WITNESS A SCENE LIKE THIS ...
IEEN
TOSS
YUGA! CATCH!
WHAT?
AH...
THOOM

УМР
УМР

KLAP
I ALWAYS COME TO THE RESCUE.
I'M ALMOST FAMOUS.
ARE YOU OKAY?
Way to go, kunoichi!
KLAP
WOO HOO!
Amazing!
KLAP
KLAP
KLAP
TAK
WHAT WAS I SUPPOSED TO DO, YUGA? SHOULD I NOT HAVE SAVED HER?
TMP
I didn't mean that
...OR I'LL HAVE TO TELL YOUR GRANDFATHER THAT YOU'VE BECOME A FAMOUS KUNOICHI.
KAJIKA! DON'T BE SO CONSPICUOUS ...
KAJIKA-CHAN, YOU'RE SO COOL!!
AAH!

GOOD MORNING, KAJIKA-SAN.
Hee hee
SORRY!
T-TOMOKA, DON'T STARTLE ME LIKE THAT!
WOW, THIS IS UNUSUAL, ISN'T IT?
YOU'RE USUALLY NOT HERE THIS LATE, HITOMI.
I DON'T HAVE MORNING PRACTICE TODAY, SO...
THAT WAS AN AMAZING FEAT.
PRACTICE... YOU MEAN FOR THE TEA CEREMONY CLUB?
THAT MEANS ...!
GOOD MORNING, KAJIKA-KUN.

HE'S HERE! ♡
OH!
FUJISAKI-SEMPAI !!
WH-WHO IS THAT GUY?!
He's sort of pretentious
I'M IMPRESSED
SWOON
I JUST DID WHAT CAME NATURALLY.
HE'S THE PRESIDENT OF THE TEA CEREMONY CLUB.
FUJISAKI-SEMPAI... ♡
AHHH ...

I THINK YOU SHOULD ACT MORE LADYLIKE.
HE'S GENTLE ...
...AND CALM.
I ADORE HIM.
HM.
IT'S ALL WELL AND GOOD TO BE SO LIVELY, BUT...
KR
AK
GRRR

I'VE DECIDED!
SHK SHK
AND WHO ARE YOU?
HEY, JERK! HOW CAN YOU SAY SUCH A STUPID THING TO HER?!
I'LL SHOW YOU I CAN BE LADYLIKE!
I'LL STOP ACTING LIKE A KUNOICHI AND BECOME THE PERFECT GIRL!!!
...
WELL THEN ...
SMILE
GOOD LUCK!

KAJIKA, DO YOU ACTUALLY LIKE THAT GUY?
B-BMP
HUH?
...
YES.
THERE.☆ I ACTUALLY SAID IT.
IT'S A SECRET, THOUGH, YUGA.
I'M ONLY TELLING YOU BECAUSE WE'VE BEEN FRIENDS FOR SO LONG.
DASH
BUT...
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE FOR ME, KAJIKA.

A TEA CEREMONY IS THE EPITOME OF "LADYLIKE," RIGHT?
YES, MA'AM.
LET'S DO THIS, HITOMI!!
TIK TIK TIK
TIK TIK TIK
IS THAT ALL YOU CAN THINK ABOUT?
BLARG
COOKING IS ALSO WHAT LADIES DO, RIGHT?
CAN I SAY SOMETHING?
IF YOU DO IT STEP BY STEP, IT'S REALLY EASY. ♡
COOKING IS SIMPLE! ♡

HA HA HA! HOW ABOUT SEWING ?
SPLORG
... ...
RIGHT!
HERE!
WILT
knk
Yuga's
ZERK
SPLOOSH
SIGH
TWANG
TRRK
TWUNK
HOPELESS

SPECIAL GUEST

IT'S MAICCHI ASATSUKI!

WE'VE BEEN HANGING OUT TOGETHER FOR TWO YEARS, MORE OR LESS. WE'RE SO CLOSE WE'VE ADOPTED EACH OTHER AS SISTERS, YAY!! THANKS FOR BEING MY GUEST! LET'S HAVE A LOT MORE LAUGHS TOGETHER IN THE FUTURE!!

ARINA HAN - THANKS FOR BEING HAPPY

HELLO ♪ MY NAME IS MAI ASATSUKI, AND I JUST MADE MY DEBUT IN FEBRUARY OF THIS YEAR. ARINA NE-YAN, MY HEARTFELT CONGRATULATIONS ON THE PUBLICATION OF *SHORT-TEMPERED MELANCHOLIC*

Is it really okay for me to be in this suspicious place?

YOUR DEBUT STORY, "SECOND LOVE" IS REPRINTED IN THIS BOOK, RIGHT? & I REALLY LOVED YOUR DEBUT, AND I EVEN WROTE A FAN LETTER

WHEN I FIRST STARTED SENDING SUBMISSIONS I WAS STUDYING IN MANGA SCHOOL, AND I EVEN GOT PUBLISHER ↖ WON THE AWARD FOR EFFORT TWO TIMES! AT THE TIME NE-YAN WAS 16 I WAS 13 IT'S BEEN THREE YEARS SINCE THEN.

CURRENTLY I'M HELPING OUT AS A BACKGROUND ASSISTANT ON *KAMIKAZE KAITO JEANNE*. I'M LEARNING A LOT! I TRAVEL FROM KANAGAWA PREFECTURE TO AICHI ♪

NE-YAN IS EXACTLY AS SHE SEEMS IN THE MANGA. SHE'S AN EXCELLENT, FUN, AND A HARD WORKER. I OWE SO MUCH TO HER!! AND WHEN I WATCH NE-YAN'S RACK AS SHE IS WORKING

I OFTEN THINK THAT

ANYWAY, IT'S A REAL HONOR TO APPEAR IN A COMIC THAT CONTAINS SOME OF MY FAVORITE STORIES! NE-YAN THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THESE WONDERFUL STORIES

MAI ASATSUKI

CHARACTERS FROM NE-YAN AND MY DEBUT MANGA. SORRY FOR DRAWING MANA WITHOUT PERMISSION!

ALL THE CHARACTERS AND EVENTS IN THIS BOOK ARE FICTITIOUS. ANY RESEMBLANCE TO ACTUAL PERSONS, LIVING OR DEAD, IS PURELY COINCIDENTAL.

LOOK, I'D LIKE TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT SOME-THING.
HMM ...
KAJIKA!
YES!
BY THE WAY ... IS IT TRUE THAT YOU GAVE UP BEING A KUNOICHI ?
WILL YOU MEET ME AT THE RIVERBANK AT 5 O'CLOCK TOMORROW?
OH!
I'D LOVE TO!

KLAK
SEE YOU LATER.
JOLT
YIPPEE!
KYAAH!
KYAAH!
...
I'M SO HAPPY! ♡
WHAT IF HE TELLS ME HE LIKES ME?
THEN I'LL TELL HIM...
...THAT I'VE ALWAYS ADORED HIM...
AND THEN...

I'M WORRIED ABOUT YOU.
...
KAJIKA.
WHY NOT?
WHY ARE YOU HERE?!
HUH?
KAJIKA-CHAN!
HE'S NEVER LOOKED AT ME WITH THAT EXPRESSION BEFORE...
TH-THAT WAS A SURPRISE! I DIDN'T THINK YUGA WOULD LOOK LIKE THAT.
UM.
FUJISAKI-SENPAI IS LATE.

TOMOKA! HITOMI!
WHAT'S WRONG?
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
WE PASSED BY YOUR HOUSE ON OUR WAY HOME...
WE HEARD YOUR GRAND-FATHER YELL FOR HELP...
WHEN WE PEEKED IN...
HE WAS SUR-ROUNDED BY NINJA!
THEY CAPTURED YOUR GRAND-FATHER!
!!
SOMEONE IS AFTER OUR FAMILY'S LEGENDARY WEAPON. IT APPEARS THAT THE NINJA KNOWN AS HAYATO IS ON THE MOVE.
GRANDPA ...
...WAS CAPTURED BY THOSE GUYS...?

KAJIKA ?!
MEET ME AT THE RIVER-BANK AT 5 O'CLOCK ...
FUJISAKI-SENPAI, I'M SORRY!
VMP VMP VMP
STOP RIGHT THERE!
WHY YOU—
I KNOW NOTHING.
TELL US WHERE THE WEAPON IS!
SPILL IT!

WHO IS SHE?!
PREPARE TO FACE THE WRATH OF THE KUNOICHI KAJIKA!!
SHE'S MY BELOVED GRAND-DAUGHTER. ♥
YOU'LL RECEIVE NO MERCY FROM ME! TAKE THIS!!
SHOOM
WHP
WHP
WHP
WHP
WHP

LOOM
DO I LOOK OKAY?!
ARE YOU OKAY, GRAND-PA?
WELL, THAT WAS KIND OF ANTI-CLIMACTIC.
No challenge at all.
FWAK
FWAK
FWAK
FWAK
FWAK
FWAK
FUJISAKI-SENPAI!
WELL, WELL, KAJIKA-KUN.
DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU HAD GIVEN UP BEING A KUNOICHI?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

KAJIKA! GET AWAY FROM HIM!!
YUGA?
SHFF
WHP
WHP
FWAK
FWAK
FWAK
HUFF
IT'S TRUE THEN
HUFF
YOU ARE THEIR LEADER.
WHAT?

FUJI-SAKI-SEN-PAI IS ...?
IT CAN'T BE.
SHMP
INDEED!
I AM HAYATO, THEIR LEADER.
I KNEW THERE WAS SOME-THING ODD ABOUT YOU.
I NEVER COULD SENSE YOUR AURA.
WHEN YOU TOLD KAJIKA SHE SHOULD ACT LADYLIKE ...
...YOUR GOAL WAS TO MINIMIZE HER STRENGTH AS A KUNOICHI, WASN'T IT?!
GASP
IF YOU WANT THIS OLD MAN TO LIVE ...
...YOU'LL HAND OVER YOUR CLAN'S WEAPON.

THAT'S WHY YOU LURED ME AWAY TO THE RIVERBANK TODAY?
B-BMP
SO...
WELL, YOU WERE ALWAYS AROUND WHEN I WAS TRYING TO GET IN THIS HOUSE.
B-BMP
WHAT'LL IT BE?
KAJIKA...
YAK
SHP

GRAB
HERE.
THIS IS "KUREHA," THE SECRET CORD.
THIS ...
...IS THE SECRET WEAPON?
JUMP
Hee!
JUMP
?

THRUD
THIS STRING IS A WEAPON ?!
DON'T TRY TO TRICK ME!
SHOOM
HUH?
KOOSH
THE KUREHA IS A SECRET WEAPON PASSED DOWN ONLY TO THOSE WHO HAVE MASTERED THE YAMANO WAY!!
THERE IS NO WAY THAT SOMEONE LIKE YOU—WHO TOYS WITH A GIRL'S TENDER FEELINGS—COULD MASTER IT!
SHWK

SHOOP
PIERCING DEATH ...
CHIK
FWIP
VIP
FLAK
FLYING SWALLOW'S CHAOTIC DANCE!
YOU'VE LOST.

NOW THE YAMANO NINJA TECHNIQUE ...
KUREHA PHANTASM CURSE!!
SLASH
...
SHE DID IT.
KAJIKA-CHAN IS SO GREAT! ♡
BYOOO
KAW
KAW

SULK
LET'S TIE RIBBONS ON THEM! ♡
LEAVE THEM ON A DESERTED ISLAND!
EXECUTE THEM!
WHAT DO WE DO WITH THEM NOW?
KAJIKA!
WHY NOT JUST LET THEM GO?
FUJISAKI-SENPAI ONLY DID THIS BECAUSE HE WANTED TO STRENGTHEN HIS CLAN, RIGHT?
...
I UNDER-STAND THAT FEELING WELL.
MY LOVE WAS AS SHORT-LIVED...
...

WHAT IS IT, YUGA? IF WE DON'T HURRY, WE'LL BE LATE!
YOU'RE NOT REALLY GOING TO QUIT BEING A KUNOICHI, ARE YOU?
...AS A FIRECRACKER, BUT...
KAJIKA!
NO.
AFTER ALL, I HAVE TO PROTECT THE WEAPON, AND...
I REALIZED I DON'T HAVE FEELINGS FOR FUJISAKI-SENPAI. I ONLY ADMIRE HIM A LOT.
K-KAJIKA, YOU KNOW, EVEN AS A KUNOICHI, YOU ARE PLENTY FEMININE!
ARE YOU TRYING TO COMFORT ME?
THANKS.

KAJIKA, I...
I-IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT COMFORTING YOU!
HEY! THAT GIRL OVER THERE IS BEING CHASED BY A DOG!!
LET'S GO, YUGA!!
IT SEEMS THAT A NEW ADVENTURE...
...IS ABOUT TO BEGIN.
...
Yeah
still has a ribbon in his hair
KAJIKA-KUN, I'VE FALLEN IN LOVE WITH YOUR SMILING FACE!
YOU'RE TOO LATE...

SHORT-TEMPERED MELANCHOLIC/END

KUNOICHI KAJIKA!!
HAND OVER THE SECRET WEAPON!
IF YOU DON'T, WE'LL TAKE YOUR LIFE!!
KRAK
KRAK
KRAK
KRAK
SHORT-TEMPERED MELANCHOLIC
WITHOUT YOU
THAT WAS A PIECE OF CAKE.
I'M KAJIKA YAMANO.
I'M A KUNOICHI.

Short-Tempered Melancholic
—WITHOUT YOU—

GREETINGS!

HI THERE! ARINA TANEMURA HERE. @ ε

FINALLY, I CAN PRESENT MY COLLECTION OF SHORT STORIES TO YOU IN THIS VOLUME. INCLUDED IS MY DEBUT MANGA ♡, WHICH WAS DELAYED FOR A LONG TIME BECAUSE THERE WEREN'T ENOUGH PAGES

I love cats

For all my fans who waited patiently, here it is. Thanks so much ♥

HAPPY THINGS

- I WAS ABLE TO MEET RIBON ARTISTS IN PERSON.
- I BECAME FRIENDS WITH THEM.
- I WAS ABLE TO WORK AS AN ASSISTANT TO YUMI GOTSUKA-SENSEI
- I RECEIVED FAN LETTERS AND LOTS OF OTHER THINGS!!

ACTUALLY, IT'S ALMOST THE 2ND ANNIVERSARY OF MY DEBUT ♡

I'm happy but a bit embarrassed

MANY THINGS HAVE HAPPENED, BUT I'M GOING TO REMEMBER HOW I FELT AT THE START AND KEEP WORKING AWAY.

I hope I'm not introd ing!

Hee hee ♥

I·O·N

I·O·N NOW ON SALE

PLUG FROM SHOJO BEAT MANGA

IT'S GOOD!

IN MY PREVIOUS MANGA, I WROTE ABOUT MY THOUGHTS AND THE THEMES FOR MY STORIES. FOR SOME REASON, EVERYONE SEEMED TO LIKE IT, SO I'M GOING TO DO IT AGAIN. ♡

I also love fish and other marine creatures

Amuse me

SHORT-TEMPERED MELANCHOLIC

THE TITLE S FROM ONE OF MY FAVORITE SONGS BY FAIRCHILD KAJIKA IS SUPPOSED TO BE SHORT-TEMPERED HER MELANCHOLY RESULTS WHEN SHE IS UNABLE TO BE AS DOCILE AS SHE WOULD LIKE AND "EXPLODES" INSTEAD

THIS IS THE TITLE STORY. IT WAS THE THIRD STORY AFTER MY DEBUT. I REMEMBER BEING REALLY NERVOUS WHILE WRITING IT BECAUSE IT WAS SUPPOSED TO RUN IN THE MAIN MAGAZINE. ALTHOUGH I'M THE TYPE WHO USUALLY WRITES WITH A PLOT IN MIND, THIS STORY WAS WRITTEN BASED ON A CHARACTER SUGGESTED BY MY EDITOR, O-SAN. (MAYBE THAT'S WHY AN EDITOR WHO NEVER PRAISES MANGAKA-OR MAYBE JUST ME-COMPLIMENTED ME ON THE CHARACTER ♥.) ANYWAY, I TRIED TO MAKE THE LEAD FEMALE CHARACTER AS COOL AS I COULD. THAT'S WHY I MADE HER A KUNOICHI ♥. I WANTED TO TRY WRITING AN ACTION STORY (ALTHOUGH IT DIDN'T TURN OUT THAT WAY.) BUT, MAYBE BECAUSE I WAS NEW TO IT, THE NAME TOOK SUCH A LONG TIME TO DO. IT WAS REALLY A MESS ;; ONE PAGE THAT WAS DISCARDED HAD A KISSING SCENE BETWEEN KAJIKA-CHAN AND YUGA-KUN. HEE HEE! KAJIKA-CHAN AND YUGA-KUN WERE REALLY POPULAR WITH THE READERS, WHICH MADE ME REALLY HAPPY. THE FEMALE CHARACTER IS USUALLY SOMEHOW LESS POPULAR THAN HER MALE PARTNER IN MY MANGA. HOWEVER, FOR THIS MANGA THERE WERE MORE KAJIKA FANS. I DIDN'T REALLY HAVE A THEME FOR THE STORY, BUT I WANTED TO WRITE ABOUT A GIRL WHO THINKS SHE NEEDS TO ACT MORE LIKE A GIRL BUT CAN'T. I THINK WORRYING ABOUT THAT AND FALLING FOR THE WRONG PERSON IS ACTING EXACTLY LIKE A GIRL /// ;; OF ALL THE HEROINES IN THIS BOOK, KAJIKA-CHAN IS THE MOST LIKE A GIRL. AND YUGA-KUN IS DEFINITELY AWARE OF THAT.

THE BONUS STORY WAS WRITTEN ON A SCHEDULE SO TIGHT THAT IT'S A MIRACLE IT EVER GOT FINISHED. IT WAS DUE RIGHT AFTER I FINISHED THE FIRST CHAPTER OF AN ONGOING SERIES, AND IT WAS REALLY TOUGH. (ON TOP OF THAT, THE DEADLINE FOR CHAPTER 2 OF THE SERIES WAS ONLY HALF A MONTH AFTER THE DEADLINE FOR THIS STORY.) ↑ IN ONE AND A HALF MONTHS, I DID 90 PAGES;. — IT JUST ABOUT KILLED ME. (TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE, I HAD TO DO A BUNCH OF ILLUSTRATIONS.) IT FELT LIKE I WAS JUST KNOCKING THEM OUT. THEY WEREN'T VERY GOOD-I DID 30 OF THEM;. — BUT I DID LIKE THE LAST ONE. I LIKED THE CHAPTER TITLE PAGE TOO. IT WAS MY FIRST STAND-ALONE STORY, AND THE ILLUSTRATION STRAYED FROM THE ACTUAL THEME OF THE STORY → "IT IS OFTEN SAID THAT NINJA MUST SUPPRESS THEIR FEELINGS, BUT WOULDN'T THAT MEAN THEY HAVE TO GIVE UP ON FALLING IN LOVE?" THAT THOUGHT WAS THE STARTING POINT FOR MY MANGA. GRANDPA ANSWERED THAT QUESTION FOR ME. (LAUGH) ←I'M SAYING WHAT I LIKE AGAIN. PLEASE LISTEN TO IT WHILE READING THE MANGA ♥

THE THEME SONG FOR "SHORT-TEMPERED MELANCHOLIC" IS "SORAKASU" BY JUDY AND MARY ♥

EVERY-THING STARTED ...
...WITH SOMETHING MY CHILDHOOD FRIEND SAID...
I'M 16...
...THE PERFECT AGE TO FALL IN LOVE. ♡
I'M SORRY, KAJIKA !!
I WON'T BE ABLE TO WALK HOME WITH YOU FOR A WHILE!!
THAT'S FINE WITH ME.
BLUNT

HUH?
IT'S NOT LIKE I CAN'T GET HOME ON MY OWN...
YOU'RE THE CLASS PRESIDENT, RIGHT? YOU DON'T HAVE ANY CHOICE, DO YOU?
THAT'S TRUE, BUT...
IT WOULD BE NICE IF SHE ACTED A LITTLE DISAP-POINTED
OH, THAT REMINDS ME!
STOP BY ON YOUR WAY HOME.
EH? BUT IT'LL BE LATE.
COME ON!
WE'RE HAVING ODEN FOR DINNER. ♡
YOU LOVE IT, RIGHT?
♥SMILE
B-BMP

I LOVE ...
OK! I'LL MAKE IT EXTRA-SPECIAL!
BLUSH
WAIT, YOU'RE MAKING IT?!
BUT YOU'RE TOTALLY INCOMPETENT IN THE KITCHEN!
WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
TANIMOTO-KUN!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
HURRY UP AND LET'S GO.
GLOM
WHO ...
...IS THIS GIRL?
HELLO.

1-2
B-BMP
H-HELLO.
THIS IS FUJISAKI-SAN.
SHE'S IN CLASS 2.
NICE TO MEET YOU!
JUST BECAUSE THEY'RE IN THE SAME CLASS ...
...DOESN'T MEAN SHE HAS TO HOLD ONTO HIM LIKE THAT.
GLOOM
SMILE SMILE
I'VE HEARD A LOT ABOUT YOU...
...FROM MY OLDER BROTHER.
HUH?
THEN YOU MUST BE...
TMD
THAT'S RIGHT!
FUJISAKI-SENPAI!!
SHE'S MY YOUNGER SISTER ...
...KAJIKA-KUN
MRR

FUJISAKI-SENPAI IS ALSO THE NINJA KNOWN AS HAYATO.
SHMP
HE IS JUST ONE OF THE MANY NINJA WHO TRIED TO STEAL MY CLAN'S SECRET WEAPON.
WE FOUGHT EACH OTHER ONCE, BUT I DEFEATED HIM QUICKLY.
HELLO, KAJI..
ARGH!
THE COMMITTEE MEETING IS STARTING, FUJISAKI-SENPAI. LET'S GET GOING! RIGHT NOW!!
I'LL SEE YOU LATER, KAJIKA!
R-RIGHT.
TMP TMP TMP TMP
HUH?
I FEEL WEIRD ...
ZZZT

KUNOICHI KAJIKA!
HAND OVER THE SECRET WEAPON !!
ZOOP
OH, I KNOW ! ♡
URK!
KRIK
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE WALKED HOME FROM SCHOOL WITHOUT YUGA!
THOK
KRAK
YES! THAT MUST BE IT.
THUD
THAT'S WHY I FEEL SO STRANGE.
I FEEL SO MUCH BETTER NOW! ♡
SO IT SEEMS ...
FLOP
MEETING ROOM
YOU JERK!
I KNOW YOU'RE JUST TRYING TO GET CLOSE TO HER SO YOU CAN STEAL THAT WEAPON LIKE ALL THE OTHER NINJA!

HOW RUDE. I OWE KAJIKA-KUN A FAVOR FOR LETTING ME GO.
I ALSO TOLD MY UNDERLINGS NOT TO STEAL HER CLAN'S WEAPON.
GEH
THEN STAY AWAY FROM HER!
KAJIKA ONLY ADMIRES YOU.
WHY ARE YOU INTER-FERING ?
YOU'RE JUST A CHILD-HOOD FRIEND, RIGHT?
UH...
I LOVE KAJIKA !!
SO DO I.
OOOH!
OOOH!
GRRR
GRIN GRIN

I CHALLENGE YOU!
WOO!
KLAT
I SEE.
PLEASE!
YOU'RE GOING TO FIGHT HAYATO, SO YOU WANT TO STUDY NINJA TECHNIQUES.
I HAVE ONLY ONE WEEK!
I NEED TO WIN!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN BEAT—
SUFF

GOOD REVIEW?!
THE SERIAL
ARINA TANEMURA'S
PENCHI DE SHAKIN
BREAKING IN GOOD ASSISTANTS
2 HOURS OF SLEEP X 4 DAYS
SLEEP LOVE
THE
THE
THEY'RE BOTH GETTING GRADUALLY QUIETER AND THEY DON'T NOTICE WHEN THEY MAKE MISTAKES. THEY AREN'T EVEN EMBARRASSED TO SHOW ME THE MANUSCRIPT... IT'S THE FINAL STAGE
SLEEPY
ARINA
HERE YOU GO
POOF
WITCH WITCH
TIME FOR THE BIG GUNS
CHUAK!
TAIKOBO
KENSHIN
KOUNO SHIRAISHI
CRAP! THAT WOKE THEM UP. BUT THEY'RE STILL NOT GETTING ANY WORK DONE.
A chan, you got the one she'd drawn last time!
It's mine!
GYAAH!
THANK YOU vvvv
AI MINASE
(I'M SORRY, AS USUAL)
ISANA IKUHARA-CHAN
(ALWAYS STAY IN LOVE WITH TODAIJI-KUN...)
THERE ARE MANY REASONS ...
...MEN FIGHT EACH OTHER.
WHAT IS YOUR REASON?
HIS REASON 2
IT'S BECAUSE ...
BAMO
B-BMO
B-BMO
B-BMO
B-BMO

...JUST TELL ME TO LEAVE!!
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO TELL ME...
DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT!
DON'T ...
OBLIVIOUS
ZOOP
TOK
HMPH! THE SPECIAL DISH I MADE WILL GET COLD.
TNK
NNGH
NNGH
NNGH
SHE'S YOUR REASON?
MY REASON ...
...IS NOTHING LESS...

...THAN LOVE!!
DA-DUM!
I'LL HELP YOU.
LESSONS START TOMOR-ROW.
TH-THANK YOU!
ZWIK
KAJIKA, WHAT'S WRONG?
SHK SHK

YUGA!
WHAT THE ?! WHEN DID HE ...
...START SEEING FUJISAKI-SENPAI'S YOUNGER SISTER?!
FUJISAKI! PLEASE GIVE ME YOUR YOUNGER SISTER'S HAND IN MARRIAGE.
I REFUSE TO GIVE MY YOUNGER SISTER TO A MAN WHO IS WEAKER THAN I AM!
AH! ♡ IT'S A FIGHT!
KAJIKA'S IMAGINATION

I JUST HAVE TO SAY ...
...BOTH FUJISAKI AND I ...
...STUDIED FOR MANY YEARS TO BECOME NINJA.
FOR SOMEONE TO THINK HE CAN BECOME A NINJA OVERNIGHT FOR SELFISH REASONS ...
...IS AN INSULT TO THOSE OF US WHO HAVE STUDIED WITH ALL OUR MIGHT!

GRMO
KAJIKA, WHAT YOU SAY IS TRUE.
BUT NOW I FINALLY HAVE A CHANCE TO PROVE MYSELF.
I WILL NOT WITHDRAW!
NNK
BOSH
HEY!
...
SUIT YOUR-SELF!
RWL
RWL
AND SO ...

TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP
RIP RIP RIP RIP
SHFF
RIGHT!
RUN OVER THAT PAPER WITHOUT TEARING IT!
YUGA'S NINJA TRAINING BEGAN THE NEXT DAY.
WHAARGH!
HMM ...
...
Yes Sir!
Jump over a slightly higher plant each day
IS GRANDPA REALLY SERIOUS ABOUT TEACHING YUGA?
IT'S ALL PRETTY EASY STUFF.
Yes Sir!
Hold a blowpipe like this!
Yes Sir!
Draw spirals on your cheeks!
SWP SWP

EVER SINCE THAT DAY ...
WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN TOGETHER.
YUGA AND I HAVE NEVER ARGUED BEFORE ...
KAJIKA ...
YOUR PARENTS WERE KILLED WHILE FULFILLING THEIR DUTY AS NINJA.
FATHER ! MOTHER !
AHH.
JOLT
DON'T CRY!

IF YOU CRY NOW, IT WILL SHOW ON YOUR FACE.
YOUR FACE WILL REVEAL YOU AS THE YAMANO CLAN'S HEIR.
YOUR LIFE WILL BE IN DANGER!
A KUNOICHI MUST NEVER REVEAL HER FEELINGS.
DO YOU UNDER-STAND?
SHP
CHAK
YUGA.
YES ... GRAND-PA
THIS IS KAJIKA. SHE IS A YAMANO.
WE'LL BE TAKING CARE OF HER UNTIL THE FUNERAL IS OVER.
BE FRIENDS WITH HER, OKAY?

I LOVE ODEN!
BUT I'LL MAKE SURE YOU GET PLENTY!
GRIN
S-SO?
WE'RE HAVING ODEN FOR DINNER TONIGHT!
...
PLEASE ...
...DON'T LOOK SO SAD.
I CRIED MY EYES OUT THEN.
SPLISH
YUGA WAS ABLE TO FIND ...
...THE TEARS I HAD BEEN HIDING.
SPLSH
I THOUGHT WE WERE THE KIND OF FRIENDS WHO COULD TALK TO EACH OTHER ABOUT ANYTHING...

KAJIKA ?
YUGA ...
OMIZ
AH' YOUR GRAND-FATHER TOLD ME TO COME STRAIGHT THROUGH HERE .
HE SAID IT WAS TRAINING FOR CONCEALING MY EMOTIONS
BUUSH
TUG
IS THAT...
SHOOM
...ALL YOU HAVE TO SAY ?!
!
SHP

WHAT ?!
YOU HAVEN'T TALKED TO HIM SINCE THEN?!
WHY? IT'S ALL YUGA'S FAULT!
CLINT
CLINT
HI, KAJIKA-KUN.
KAJIKA-KUN!
OH, FUJISAKI-SENPAI. HELLO.
MY FIGHT IS TOMOR-ROW.
I JUST WANTED TO SEE KAJIKA-KUN'S FACE ONCE MORE BEFORE-HAND.
R-REALLY?
THOK
KAJI—
TMP TMP

I WILL DEFINITELY WIN.
PLEASE WATCH MY BRAVE MANEU-VERS.
HE'S PLANNING TO USE HIS FULL STRENGTH AGAINST AN AMATEUR.
HOW IM-MATURE
KAJIKA-CHAN?
...
FUJISAKI IS GOING TO USE HIS FULL STRENGTH ?
YUGA HAS NO CHANCE OF WINNING AS IT IS.
IF FUJISAKI-SENPAI DOES THAT...

YUGA WILL I BE KILLED !
KUNOICHI KAJIKA! HAND OVER THE SECRET—
HUH ?
TMP TMP TMP
ZWIK
VISH
GRAND-PA!
WELCOME HOME.
YUGA ?!
WHY ARE YOU HERE SO EARLY?
COMMITTEE MEETINGS ENDED YESTERDAY.

HERE.
STEAM
WELL, WHY DIDN'T HE SAY SO?!
SIGH
I THOUGHT I'D ROAST THESE BEFORE YOU GOT HOME.
YOU LIKE THEM, DON'T YOU?
I WAS SO...
...ANGRY AT HIM...
I'M SO EMBAR-RASSED
EVEN THOUGH I WAS SO ANGRY ...
YES ...
I KNEW IT!

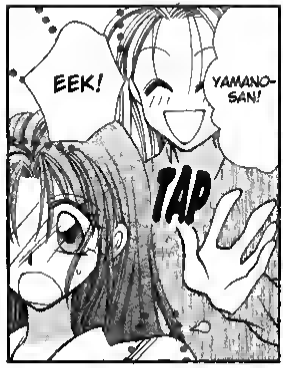
BUT NOW ...
WELL, I'M HEADING HOME NOW.
EH? WHY?
TOMORROW IS THE FIGHT. I WANT TO BE READY.
WHEN I'M WITH KAJIKA, I FEEL SAFE. I DON'T FEEL A SENSE OF DANGER.
BLUSH
YOU'RE RIGHT. EVEN THOUGH I'M JUST A CHILDHOOD FRIEND ...
..PEOPLE MIGHT GET THE WRONG IDEA.

THIS IS THE KUREHA ...
THE SECRET WEAPON OF THE YAMANO CLAN.
EVEN IF YOU AREN'T A SKILLED NINJA, IF YOU USE IT CORRECTLY, YOU WILL HAVE POWER.
EH?
REALLY ?
BUT THAT'S YOUR VALUED ...
IT'S FINE!
FUJISAKI-SENPAI WON'T HOLD BACK!
GOOD LUCK!

KAJIKA ...
She's not mad anymore
SIGH
THANK YOU!
...
PLIP
EH?
PLIP
PLIP
WHAT AM I DOING ...?
SINCE THAT DAY ...
...I HAVEN'T CRIED ONCE.

NOT EVEN WHEN I WAS BETRAYED
...BY FUJISAKI-SENPAI.
WHY DOES MY CHEST HURT SO MUCH?
I DON'T UNDER-STAND.
YUGA
...
I DON'T UNDER-STAND.

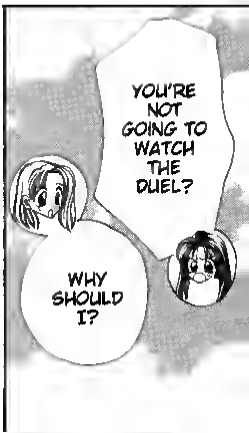
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN...
TODAY'S FIGHT— YUGA VS HAYATO—IS ABOUT TO BEGIN. ♡
I'm Hotaru.
I'm Tomoko ♥
KAJIKA ISN'T HERE ...
SWIP
WHO ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?
I'M YOUR OPPONENT.
START!


EEK!
YAMANO-SAN!
TAP

YOU'RE FUJISAKI-SENPAI'S YOUNGER SISTER!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I'M A COMMITTEE MEMBER, SO I'M WORKING TODAY.

SIGH

BUT ...
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SHOULD BE THERE, YAMANO-SAN.
THEY'RE BOTH FIGHTING OVER YOU, AFTER ALL.


YOU'RE NOT GOING TO WATCH THE DUEL?
WHY SHOULD I?

BOTH ...
YUGA TOO?
OF COURSE!
HE'S THE ONE WHO SHOUTED ...
...THAT HE LOVED YOU!
YUP
TUMP
SWISH
HUFF HUFF
KAJIKA'S GRAND FATHER TAUGHT ME WELL!
NOT BAD.
HUFF
HUFF

WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME?!
I...
I...
HUH?
FWAP
YUGA, YOU IDIOT!
SHOOA
...KAJIKA-KUN SHOULD BE BOUND TO ME!
ORDER TO CONTINUE THE YAMANO LINE OF NINJA ...
VISH
I'LL ADMIT THAT YOU MOVE WELL ...
BUT...
WAP

VUMP
AAAH!
OH
KAJIKA!
HE'S STRONG!
WHO IS HE?!
KAJIKA-KUN WILL BE FINE
SHE'LL TAKE CARE OF THAT ASSASSIN IN ONE FELL SWOOP
BUT KAJIKA IS STILL JUST A GIRL!

I'LL NEVER LET YOU HAVE KAJIKA!
SHANG
A JERK LIKE YOU WHO DOESN'T TRY TO HELP HER ...
SHE'S ALWAYS ENDURING HARD-SHIP.
HUH?
THE KUREHA WAS CHANGED SHAPE ...
H
WAK

KAJIKA !
!
VMP
FWOOP
W-WAIT!
ENOUGH TALKING !
YAMANO NINJA TECHNIQUE !
KUREHA PHOENIX DESCENT !!
AAA

EH?
THAT VOICE...
EEK!!
GRANDPA?!
WHAT? WHAT?
ACTUALLY, I HAD PLANNED TO BESTOW MY BLESSING UPON THE ONE WHO GAVE UP THE FIGHT TO SAVE KAJIKA.
THRASHED

UH-HUH.
LET'S GO HOME, YUGA!
THIS IS RIDICULOUS.
YOU IDIOT! IF I HAD, IT WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN A TEST!
RWAR RWAR
YOU SHOULD HAVE SAID THAT FROM THE BEGINNING!
AH! KAJIKA-KUN!
YOU LOST THIS FIGHT.
GIVE UP GRACEFULLY.
GRIP
...KAJIKA DOESN'T REALLY NEED SOMEONE STRONG.
SHE NEEDS SOMEONE KIND WHO WILL LET HER CRY WHEN SHE NEEDS TO CRY.
THE YAMANO CLAN WILL DISAPPEAR AS A RESULT OF THIS!
I'LL TOUGHEN UP YUGA.
BUT EITHER WAY ...
GRANDPA'S HIDDEN AGENDA HAD BEEN REVEALED ...
...AND YUGA AND I STARTED WALKING HOME TOGETHER AGAIN.

BUT ...
...SOME-THING HAD CHANGED.
not meeting each other's eyes
WHAT SHOULD I DO NOW? I WON AND SHE KNOWS HOW I FEEL...
IS THIS WHERE I SHOULD PUT MY ARM AROUND HER SHOULDER?
MMBL MMBL
I WAS LONELY, AND THEN I WAS HAPPY...
I WANT TO TELL HIM SO MANY THINGS.
BUT THIS IS NEW TO ME, SO I CAN'T EXPRESS IT VERY WELL.
HEE
TO TELL THE TRUTH ...

JUST KIDDING.
EH?!
BLUSH
IN THAT CASE ...
FOR NOW ...
I COULD HEAR YOU, YOU KNOW.
I'LL LET HIM KNOW THAT I LIKE HIM.
I'M RIGHT HERE.
WILL YOU STAY WITH ME?
NOW ...
...AND FOREVER.

This Love is Nonfiction

KARIN!
I'M BEGGING YOU TO HELP ME!!
KLAP
OH.
WELL, IF THERE IS ANYTHING I CAN DO...

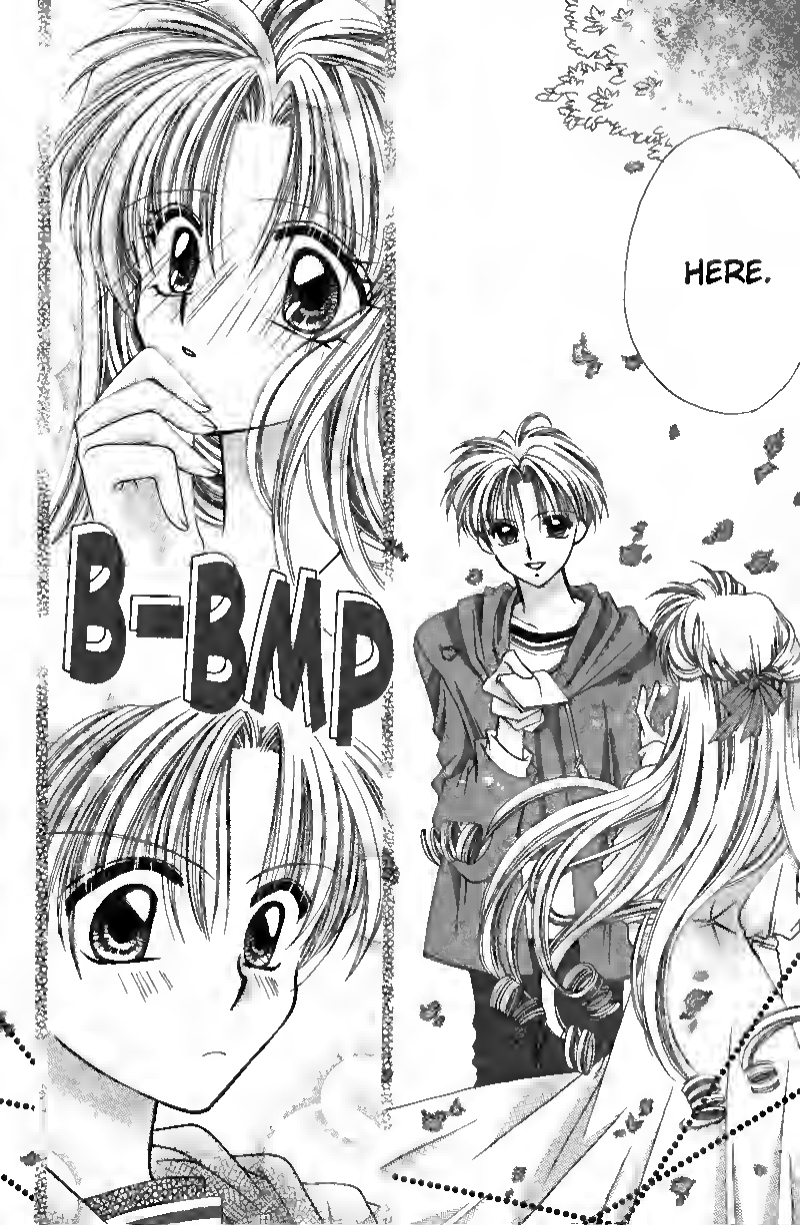
THEN YOU'LL HELP ME?
IT MUST BE PRETTY IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO COME ALL THE WAY HERE.
Trouble-some Yuri has paid me a visit—
HERE, LET'S HAVE SOME TEA WHILE WE TALK ABOUT IT.
THE TRUTH IS—
I LIKE STRAW-BERRY PARFAITS. ♡
ARGH! I GET IT, I GET IT! I'LL BUY YOU ANYTHING YOU WANT IF YOU'LL JUST LISTEN TO ME!!
SMILE
I HAVE THIS PEN PAL—
AND ANMITSU. ♡
I SENT HIM A PHOTO—
CHEESECAKE IS GOOD. ♡♡
OH, REALLY?
I DO ADORE TASTY TREATS. ♡

KAW
MY PEN PAL!
KAW
MEET WHO?
IN RETURN, I WANT YOU TO MEET WITH HIM, AND I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ANY COMPLAINTS, KARIN.
TAK
...
Hm
THIS IS CRAZY.
I NEVER THOUGHT SHE'D ASK ME TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS.

BLUSH
OH, STOP COMPLAINING ABOUT SOMETHING THAT'S ALREADY DONE!
IT'S JUST LIKE YURI TO SEND MY PICTURE TO HER PEN PAL AND TELL HIM IT WAS HER.
WHY DIDN'T YOU SEND YOUR OWN PHOTO?
AAH! IF YOU MUST KNOW, IT'S BECAUSE I'VE GAINED WEIGHT! I'M A BLIMP!!
BUT EVEN SO...
...WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER TO SEND YOUR OWN PHOTO?
I'M SCARED HE MIGHT NOT LIKE ME IN PERSON ...
BUT FROM THE WAY WE'VE TALKED IN OUR LETTERS, HE SEEMS LIKE MY SOUL MATE.
GLEE
WHAT IS IT, KARIN?
YOU'RE REALLY CUTE, YURI! ♡
SO THIS IS WHAT A GIRL IN LOVE LOOKS LIKE.

BUT ALL I HAVE TO DO IS MEET HIM AND EXPLAIN THE SITUATION, RIGHT?
EXACTLY! PLEASE!!
WIG AND HAT
NOW YOU'RE NOT CUTE AT ALL!!
AM I THAT TRANSPARENT? DO YOU THINK I SHOULD WEAR A DISGUISE AT FIRST?
BUT ...
YURI REALLY DOES LOOK CUTE TODAY.
I'D LIKE TO EXPERIENCE FALLING IN LOVE TOO...
...WITH A WONDERFUL MAN...
...AND LITTLE BY LITTLE, FIND MYSELF...
I GUESS IT CAN'T BE HELPED.
BY THE WAY, HOW LONG ARE THOSE GUYS GOING TO FOLLOW YOU?
It's tough being a rich girl, huh?
THRONG
BODY-GUARDS
...
SOMEDAY...

MY HANDKERCHIEF!
I'LL BE BACK IN A SEC.
KARIN, I NEED TO SHOW YOU HIS PHOTO—
HEY!
WHUD
DASH
HUH?
AAH!
...CHANGED BY IT.
FWISH


HERE.
B-BMP

OH
HOW GALLANT
WHAT A COOL GUY!
UM ...
YES?
YOU WOULDN'T BE YURI AKAMATSU BY ANY CHANCE, WOULD YOU?
FWEE
FWEE
THIS MUST BE YURI-SAN'S PEN PAL ...
UM...
I MADE PLANS FOR US TO GO TO THE AQUARIUM TODAY.
I'M RYONO, BY THE WAY ...
DING
AQUARIUM

THE AQUARIUM ?!
KYAAH! ♥
WE'RE GOING TO GO TO THE AQUARIUM ?!
UM, NO, I MEAN ...
I'M SO HAPPY! ♡
B-BMP
DO YOU THINK THEY'LL HAVE DOLPHINS ?!
COME ON, TAGOSAKU !!
EH?
OJOU-SAMA'S
THRONG
SNAP
YES, OJOU-SAMA.

WSHHH
KLAK KLAK
TO THE AQUARIUM!
If you please.
NO... I MEAN ...
WAIT ...
KLAK KLAK KLAK KLAK
GRRR!
WHAT'S YOUR DEAL?! SUDDENLY JUMPING OUT OF THE BUSHES LIKE THAT!!
That's dangerous!
YOU TOOK THE WORDS RIGHT OUT OF MY MOUTH!!
I'M GOING AFTER HER!
DASH
...
MORE IMPORTANTLY, THAT IDIOT KARIN FORGOT ALL ABOUT ME!
She went on a date with him!
I WON'T LET HER GET AWAY WITH THIS!
VEEN

IT'S WONDERFUL! ♡
THERE ARE SO MANY FISH. ♡
HEY, UM ... I...
THRONG THRONG
THIS IS A FORE-HEAD FISH! ♡
FOREHEAD FISH?!
This? Part?
YES?
OH! WHAT SHOULD I CALL YOU?
RYO... YOU CAN CALL ME RYO.
VERY WELL THEN, RYO-SAMA. ♡

YOU CAN'T JUST GIVE IT A RANDOM NAME ...
EH? IT'S NOT A FOREHEAD FISH?
AH! THERE THEY ARE!
IT'S CALLED A NAPOLEON FISH...
...BECAUSE ITS HEAD LOOKS LIKE NAPOLEON'S HAT.
RYO, YOU'RE REALLY KNOWLEDGE-ABLE. ♡
KNOWLEDGE-ABLE? THAT'S NOT THE IMPRESSION I GOT FROM HIS LETTERS.
OH! RYO-SAMA! A DOLPHIN!
LOOK, LOOK! ♡
I'VE BEEN WONDERING... DO YOU REALLY LIKE DOLPHINS THAT MUCH?
YES! ♡
But it's so big
IT'S NOT?
THAT'S NOT A DOLPHIN.
THAT'S A MANATEE.

...
WHEN I WAS YOUNG ...
...I HAD TWO WISHES.
THE FIRST ...
...WAS TO BECOME A DOLPHIN TRAINER.
REALLY? WHY?
THE FIRST TIME I SAW DOLPHINS ON TV...
...I FELL IN LOVE WITH THEM.
SQUEE
SQUEE
...
Karin, age 3

I WAS SO IN LOVE WITH DOLPHINS.
SO ONE DAY, MY FATHER BOUGHT ME A DOLPHIN PLUSHIE.
BUT WHEN MY MOTHER SAW IT, SHE GOT REALLY ANGRY ...
Oh, that thing!
HER MOM DIDN'T THROW IT AWAY...
did she?
THEN SHE BOUGHT ME ALL THESE HUGE STUFFED ANIMALS.
HERE
Bigger is better!
I see.
AND ONE DAY, BECAUSE IT GOT DIRTY FROM ME HUGGING IT SO MUCH, MY DOLPHIN WAS THROWN AWAY.
sob
SO IT WAS THROWN AWAY AFTER ALL...

I THINK AT THAT MOMENT ...
...MY DREAM WAS ALSO THROWN AWAY.
GRIP
I SUPPOSE THAT'S WHY ...
...I'M SO OBSESSED WITH THEM.
LET'S GO FIND THE DOLPHINS.
OH?
ARE THERE SOME HERE?

I HAVEN'T A CLUE.
BLUNT
Disappointment is a sweet trap
of irrelevance
BUT THEY MAY HAVE SOME HERE, YOU KNOW!
I SUPPOSE YOU'RE RIGHT.
...
I'LL ASK FOR THE CAR ...
OH! PLEASE DON'T CALL FOR THAT RICKSHAW AGAIN!!
WE DON'T NEED IT TO GET AROUND.
SIGH
?
HOW SHALL WE GO, THEN?
SUFF

B-BMP
LIKE THIS!
ZFF
ONE ...
KARIN!
ZFF
TWO ...
RYO!
DASH
THREE !!
WAIT, OJOU-SAMA!!

MY HEARTBEAT ...
B-BMP
...WAS SLOW...
...BUT IT'S CERTAINLY ...
(a)hhhhh
B-BMP
B-BMP
...GETTING FASTER ...

I FEEL LIKE THIS IS THE START OF SOMETHING ...
YOU AGAIN ?!
GRR
I KEEP SAYING THIS, BUT YOU TOOK THE WORDS RIGHT OUT OF MY MOUTH!
CAN'T YOU AT LEAST APOLO-GIZE?
WHAT?! THAT'S STUPID! IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT ANYWAY!!
NO, IT'S YOURS!
IT'S DEFINITELY YOURS!
YOURS! YOURS! YOURS!
IT'S YOURS! YOURS!
SHOCK
THEY'RE LIKE TWO PEAS IN A POD
SHUT UP!!
?!

SCREW THIS. I HAVE TO FIND KARIN!
HUH?
HEY! WHY ARE YOU FOLLOWING ME?!
I HAVE BUSINESS WITH THEM TOO!!
TWO PEAS IN A POD!
TWO PEAS IN A POD!
HA HA HA
EH?!
THERE AREN'T ANY?!
THAT'S RIGHT.
I'M VERY SORRY, BUT WE DON'T HAVE DOLPHINS AT THIS AQUARIUM.

I'M SORRY!
DOLPHIN
DOLPHIN
Disappointment is a sweet trap
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT, RYO-SAMA.
I JUST DON'T HAVE ANY LUCK.
WAIT HERE FOR JUST A MINUTE !!
DASH
RYO-SAMA ?!
...
DASH
JOLT
IT REALLY WAS JUST A MINUTE...

HERE.
!
A DOLPHIN ...
...PENDANT.
AH.
I'M GLAD. ☆
RYO-SAMA ...
THE DOLPHIN PLUSHIES IN THE SOUVENIR SHOP WERE SOLD OUT...
YOU DON'T LIKE IT?
NO! IT'S GREAT!

HMPH! WHERE IS THAT KARIN?!
EXCUSE ME...
THANK YOU...
HUFF HUFF
EH... IT'S THAT GUY AGAIN.
He's buying a medal too...
AND YOUR NAME?
WOULD YOU LIKE A PENGUIN MEDAL WITH YOUR NAME ON IT?
OF COURSE !!
↑ Likes penguins

YURI AKAMATSU.
KRASH
THMP
RWL
RWL
THD
EH? EH?
Y-YOU ...
WHAT IS YOUR PROBLEM ?
HUH?
KARIN!
AH! THERE IT IS.
THE ELEVATOR.
UNDER CONSTRUCTION PLEASE USE CAUTION.
BA
M
KLOK
MIRACLE SOUR
VRNN
WAIT ...!

KLANG
KLANG
KLANG
KLANG
THUNK
WH-WHAT HAPPENED?!
ALL I DID WAS HIT THE DOOR. HOW DID THAT BREAK IT?!
THEY'RE GETTING AWAY ...
SILENCE
IF JUST HITTING IT BREAKS IT...
...THEN JUST HITTING IT AGAIN SHOULD FIX IT.
Y-YOU ...
I THOUGHT YOU WERE JUST SOME WEIRD GUY, BUT...
...YOU'VE GOT A PRETTY GOOD HEAD ON YOUR SHOULDERS.
HUH?
YOUR MEDAL ...
YOU DROPPED IT.
AH! THAT'S ...
HUH? THAT NAME ...

WOW!
THIS IS AMAZING.
IT'S BEAUTIFUL.
THIS ELEVATOR MUST BE RIGHT BESIDE THE GIANT TANK.
HUH? DO YOU HEAR SOMETHING STRANGE?
VRNNN
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...
SKRRK SKRRK SKRRK

BUT... IT'S JUST A CHEAP—
NOT AT ALL!
IT'S WORTH MORE TO ME ...
...THAN ANYTHING ELSE.
IT SEEMS AS THOUGH MY OTHER DREAM ...
...MAY BE COMING TRUE.
WHAT OTHER DREAM?
TO FALL MADLY IN LOVE ...
...WITH A MARVELOUS BOY. ♡
OH ...
I SEE.
227

YOU... ALREADY FOUND HIM?
YES. ♡
A LITTLE WHILE AGO, HE TOOK MY HAND...
...
...AND STOLE MY HEART.
SUFF
EH?
B-BMP
B-BMP
BBMP
So sudden!
HE'S REALLY GOING TO...!
B-BMP
I NEED TO PREPARE MY HEART.
B-BMP

SKREEEK
I...
LIM ...
RYO-SAMA ...
B-BMP

KARIN!
BAM
Y-YURI-SAN!
She's beyond furious!
EH?
OH...
WAIT— WHO IS YURI-CHAN?
YOU OR YOU ? ?
YOU SHOULDN'T RIDE IN BROKEN ELEVATORS!
You really are a ditz
WHOA... I'M SORRY ...

HE LIKES ...
RYO-SAMA WAS YURI-SAN'S PEN PAL FROM THE START.
EVEN THOUGH THEY'VE ONLY EXCHANGED LETTERS, YURI-SAN LIKES RYO-SAMA.
AND HE ALMOST CERTAINLY LIKES...
HM ...
THIS IS THE REAL YURI-SAN.
KARIN ...
RYO-SAMA, THIS IS YOUR PEN PAL IN THE FLESH.

I'M SO SORRY!
KARIN, LOOK—
YURI-SAN, I'M SORRY.
THAT GOES FOR YOU TOO, RYO-SAMA. I COMPLETELY FORGOT ...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO GET ME THE SWEETS YOU PROMISED.
GOODBYE.
KARIN!
I'LL BE FINE.
I'LL BE FINE... I CAN FORGET.
IF I CRY, I CAN FORGET.
IF I CRY ...
WELL, THAT'S IT, THEN.
WHY DIDN'T SHE SAY SOME-THING SOONER ?!
THAT GIRL!
SWIP

...TO BE WASHED AWAY WITH TEARS.
THAT LOVE WAS TOO WONDERFUL ...
BUT... YOUR HAND HOLDING MINE ...
YOUR GENTLE KISS ...

...RYO-SAMA ...
I FINALLY FOUND YOU.
I LOVE YOU ...

I HEARD THE WHOLE STORY FROM THE REAL YURI.
SO SHE SWITCHED PICTURES ?
YES.
I-
I NEVER THOUGHT YOU GIRLS WOULD DO THAT TOO.
TOO?
HUH ?!
WE DID THE SAME THING. ♡
GRIN
THE REAL PEN PALS RAN INTO EACH OTHER SOMEWHERE AND GOT ACQUAINTED.
You should have revealed yourself sooner!!
I didn't know you were the real Yuri. There was nothing I could do!
Do you want to exchange medals?
Yuri-chan! ♡
WELL... IT SEEMS THOSE TWO GOT TO KNOW EACH OTHER REALLY WELL THROUGH THEIR LETTERS...

ARE YOU ...
ARE YOU OKAY WITH THAT?
HUH?
IS IT ALL RIGHT IF I FALL FOR YOU...
...RYO-SAMA?
YOUR SECOND WISH ...
WHAT WAS IT AGAIN?
I WANTED TO FALL MADLY IN LOVE.
THAT'S THE ONE! WELL, IF YOU DON'T MIND...

WOULD YOU...
...FALL MADLY IN LOVE WITH ME?
YES.
FROM THE MOMENT WE MET ---
IT ALL STARTS WITH THE TIPS OF YOUR FINGERS ---

ROMANCE BLOOMED.
I'M KARIN TAKASE-GAWA.
BY THE WAY, WHAT'S YOUR REAL NAME?
IT'S RYO.
THE REAL PEN PAL IS RYONO ATSUSHI. MY NAME IS RYO SATAKE.
KYAAH! THIS IS EMBAR-RASSING! PUT ME DOWN!
Hey, the four of us should go get something to eat!

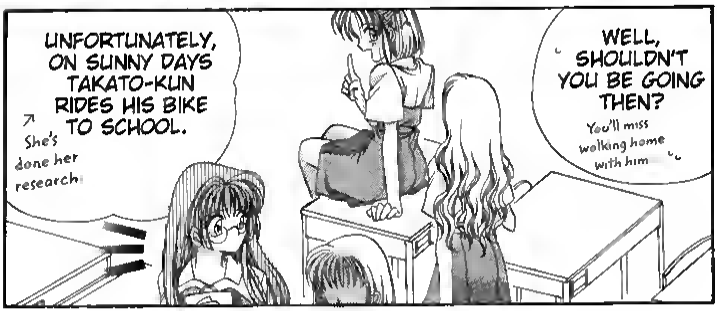
Rainy Afternoons
Are for
Romantic Heroines

TAKATO-KUN!
I FORGOT MY UMBRELLA. MAY I SHARE YOURS?!
YOU AGAIN ...
HAGGARD

TH-THAT'S NOT TRUE!
I WAS RIGHT ?!
RIGHT ON THE MARK
YOU FORGOT YOUR UMBRELLA ON PURPOSE, DIDN'T YOU?
Every single time
DON'T CALL ME "YOU"!
MY NAME IS MINORI! ♡
YOU MAKE ME GO WITH YOU TO YOUR HOUSE—WHICH IS IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION OF MINE...
AND MY UMBRELLA IS SO SMALL THAT MY SHOULDER GETS WET!
ANYWAY ...
I'M FED UP.
SHOCK
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
AM I REALLY SUCH A BURDEN ?!
KUKU...

...EVEN WHEN HE ACTS COLD...
HE'S ALWAYS SO KIND ...
IT JUST MAKES ME LIKE HIM MORE.
IF YOU DON'T HURRY, I'LL LEAVE WITHOUT YOU.
OKAY!
HE'S SO NICE. ♡
ABOUT A MONTH AGO, I WAS IN A JAM BECAUSE I HAD FORGOTTEN MY UMBRELLA, AND HE LET ME SHARE HIS.
SNAP

ARE YOU SAYING YOU LIKE HIM SO MUCH THAT YOU PRETEND TO FORGET YOUR UMBRELLA EVERY DAY SO YOU CAN SHARE HIS?!
YES!
I'm in love
SILENCE
IS THAT IT?
THAT'S IT.
MR/MR MR/MR


UNFORTUNATELY, ON SUNNY DAYS TAKATO-KUN RIDES HIS BIKE TO SCHOOL.
She's done her research
WELL, SHOULDN'T YOU BE GOING THEN?
You'll miss walking home with him

TAKATO... DO YOU MEAN SHINYA TAKATO-KUN?
YES, THAT'S RIGHT ...
YOU KNOW TAKATO-KUN?!
WHOA!
NO WAY! I WANT TO SEE YOUR YEARBOOK!
SURE, BUT YOU PROBABLY SHOULDN'T LOOK AT IT.
WHY DID YOU PICK TAKATO-KUN OF ALL—
MMPHF
WE WERE IN JUNIOR HIGH TOGETHER.
EEK!
YOU SHOULDN'T INTERFERE WITH MINORI'S ROMANCE!
Don't let her look
VHMM
VHMM
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT'S IN THAT YEARBOOK!! BRING IT TO SCHOOL SO WE CAN SEE.
? ?
MEOW ?
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME SHE'S EVER LIKED SOMEONE.
UP UNTIL NOW, MINORI JUST KEPT HER HEAD DOWN WHEN SOMEONE TOLD HER HE LIKED HER.

!!
SWIP
B-BUT TAKATO-KUN...
You guys are intense
...DOESN'T BELIEVE IN LOVE.
HUH?
WAIT, MINORI! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
SLAM
TMP TMP TMP
KA-CHAK
WHAT THE HECK DOES THAT MEAN?!

...YOU CAME ALL THE WAY TO MY SCHOOL TO ASK ME THAT?
AND...
YES...
PSST
PSST
PSST
PSST
PSST
IT'S BECAUSE HE WAS REJECTED BY A GIRL WHEN HE WAS A FRESHMAN.
THAT'S ...
That's so sad!
BLUB
BLUB
sob
WHAT THE...

SILENCE
SHE MUST HAVE REJECTED HIM CRUELLY...
SAY, TAKATO-KUN—
shock
HE'S GONE 2!
LET'S GO.
What are you doing now?
YOU DON'T KNOW THE WAY TO THE STATION, RIGHT?
I'LL TAKE YOU HOME.

YOU WILL?!
YOU DIDN'T LEAVE ME MUCH CHOICE ...
I'M SO HAPPY!
♡
I WILL DEFINITELY AWAKEN HIS PASSION!
?
YEEH!
IT'S A WASTE FOR SUCH A NICE GUY LIKE HIM TO ABANDON LOVE!!
BECAUSE I...
...SO WORKED UP ABOUT MY PAST?
WHY ARE YOU ...

?!
TAKATO-KUN, I ...
...I REALLY LIKE YOU!
SO PLEASE DON'T FORGET ...
...THAT THERE ARE GIRLS LIKE ME TOO.
...
DAH
WELL, SEE YOU...
I'D BETTER GET GOING.
SWIP

IT WOULD BE NICE IF WE COULD MEET UP AGAIN.
...
HEH.
WHAT A STRANGE GIRL.
TOMORROW ...
...I HOPE IT RAINS!

JUST WHAT I WISHED FOR— RAIN!!
Yeah, yeah.
MWA HA HA HA HA!
HSHH
HSHH
BACK OFF, IDIOT!
BEFORE, WHEN BOYS SAID THEY LIKED YOU, YOU'D JUST STAND THERE AND TURN RED.
BY THE WAY, WHEN DID YOU BECOME SO AGGRESSIVE?
ACK!
POP
♪ BOING
LA LA LA
POOM POOM
Yuri Running

DITHER
I'M FINE! NO WORRIES.
THAT WAS LAST YEAR.
I'M SORRY, MINORI.
ARE YOU OKAY?
I DIDN'T MEAN TO REJECT THEM LIKE THAT, THOUGH...
I DON'T EVEN REMEMBER WHAT THEIR FACES LOOKED LIKE.
Hm.
I GET IT.
I DO REMEMBER ONE OF THEM.
I LIKE YOU.
AH! BUT...
Now that you mention it...

AHH! WHAT SHOULD I DO?
THIS IS MY FIRST LOVE CONFESSION !!
TRMBL TRMBL TRMBL
I'VE WATCHED YOU FOR A LONG TIME!
I SEE YOU AT THE STATION EVERY DAY...
HUH?
Me?
I WONDER WHAT SHE'LL SAY.
PSST
PSST
IN SUCH A PUBLIC PLACE TOO ...
UM..
PSST
LOOK, HE WENT FOR IT!
I GUESS I SHOULD AT LEAST ASK HIS NAME.
THIS IS SO EMBARRASSING!
GACK

GRAB
LOOK OUT!
SWOON
EEEK!
REEL REEL
B-BUMP
ARE YOU OKAY?
FWAK
I-I'M FINE!
GLOOM
I rejected him before I knew it
I TREATED HIM PRETTY BADLY, CONSIDERING HE HELPED ME AND EVERYTHING...
TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP
W-WAIT!
AH! MINORI IS RELIVING HER PAST!
WE HAVE TO SAY SOMETHING SHOCKING TO WAKE HER UP.

AH!
I FORGOT TO TELL YOU TAKATO-KUN'S SCHOOL GETS OUT AT NOON TODAY!!
I FEEL REALLY SORRY FOR THAT POOR BOY...
Ha ha!
SHIP
NO WAY!
SHOCK
I WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE TAKATO-KUN TODAY!
VVSHH
PLSSH
PLSSH
PLSSH
SPLSH
HM...
I GUESS I'LL GO HOME...

TOMORROW... I HOPE IT RAINS!!
HSHH
HUH?
I FEEL LIKE I'M FORGETTING SOMETHING ...

EVENING
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, TAKATO-KUN?
WEREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO GET OUT EARLY TODAY?
It's 6 o'clock.
...
So much for my free afternoon...
OH, NEVER MIND.
I WAS JUST THINKING OF GOING HOME.
VEEN
COULD IT BE ...
...YOU WERE WAITING FOR ME?
Hee. ♡
B-BMP

IT STOPPED RAINING A WHILE AGO...
YES ♡
LOOK, I WAS JUST WORRIED THAT YOU WOULD BE STUCK IF YOU FORGOT YOUR UMBRELLA AGAIN...
HUH?! WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?! SO I WAITED AROUND FOR FOUR HOURS... SO WHAT?!
Oh, did it? I was sure it was still raining
THANK YOU.
Ah!
GRAB

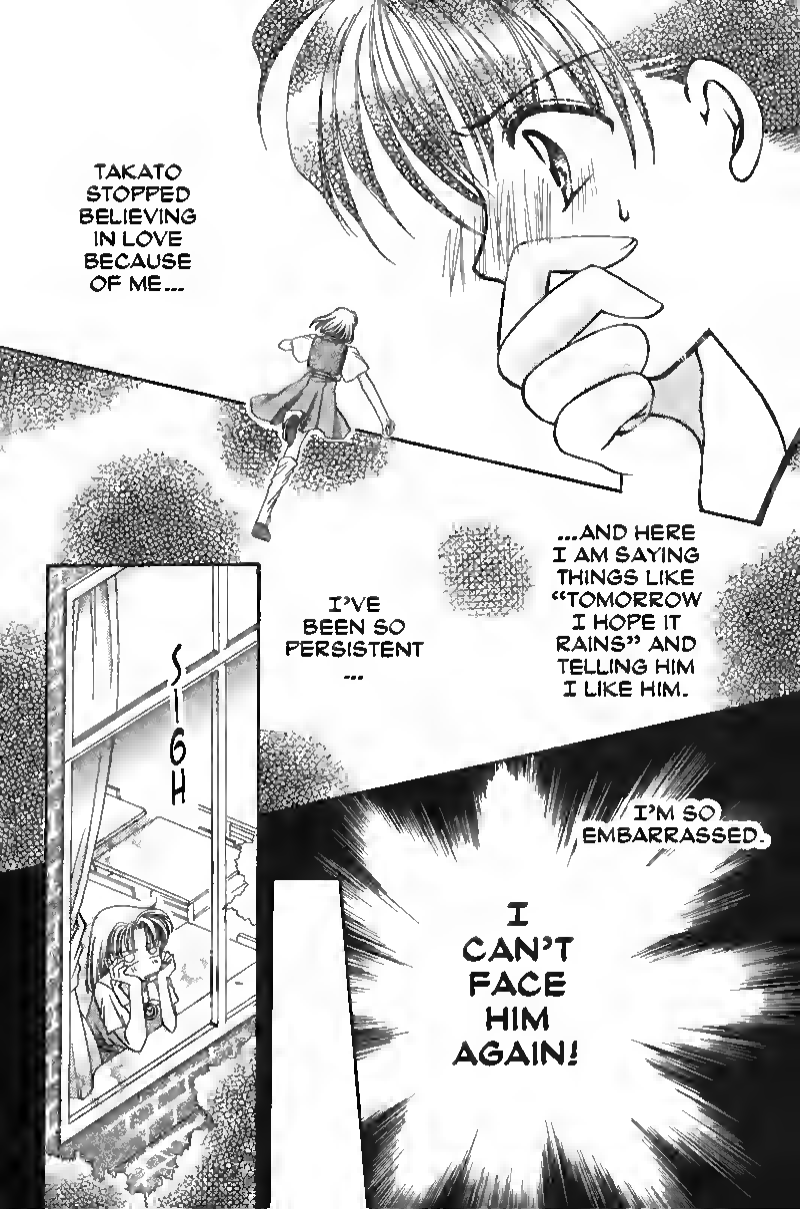
YOU'RE BLUSHING!
How cute.
WH-WHAT ELSE COULD I DO?
MEOW?
COME HERE
SAYURI-CHAN...
You're just now going home?
AIKAWA-SAN.
NOW, TIME FOR STARTING 199
HERE.
OH! THIS IS YOUR YEARBOOK !!

START
ZEE ZEE
COOL ...
FLIP
FINISH
POK
THIS IS GREAT! I WANT TO LOOK INSIDE!
GO AHEAD.
HE ISN'T IN HERE?
How long is she going to keep me waiting?!
HUH? HE'S THERE!
In class 4
CLASS 4, EH?
Hmm.
OH!

IT'S THE BOY FROM BACK THEN!
YOU KNEW ABOUT HIM?
YES...
...FOR A LITTLE WHILE NOW.
BUT THAT'S TAKATO-KUN...
WHAT?
HEY, COULD YOU INTRODUCE ME TO HIM?
I OWE HIM AN APOLOGY.

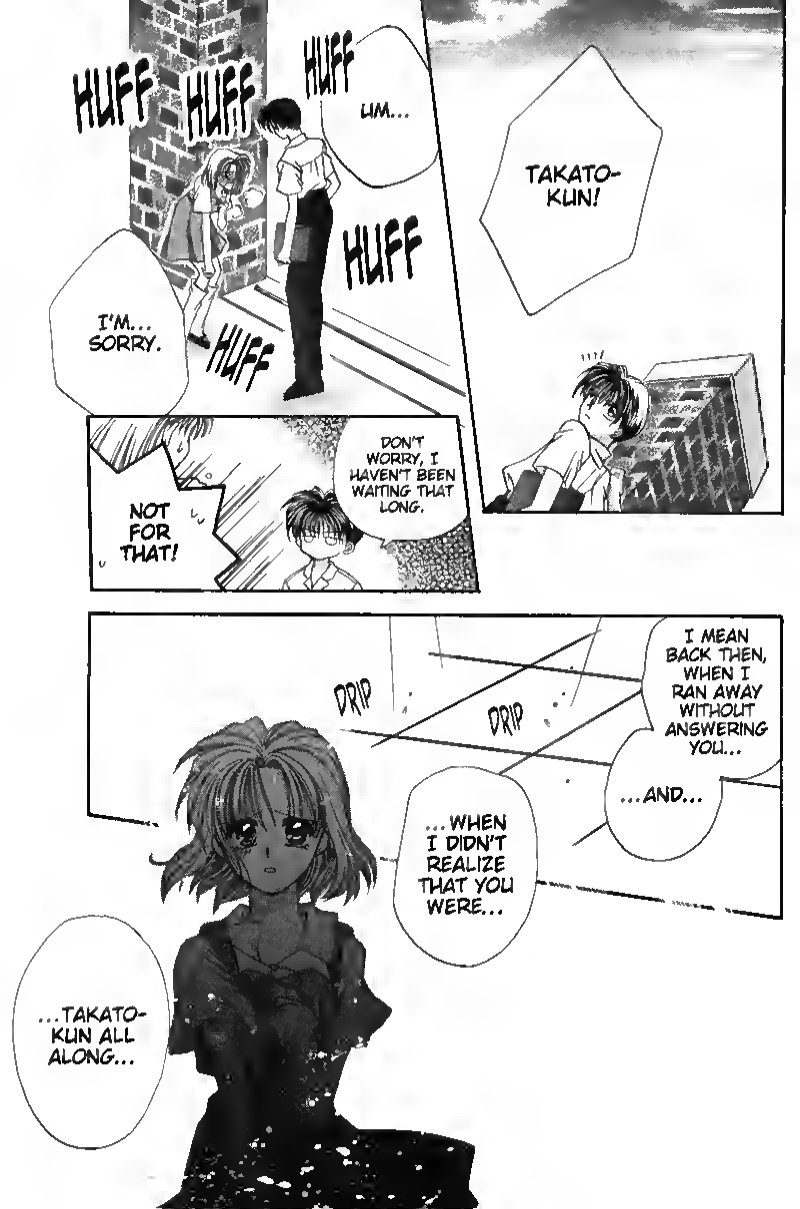
Takato
Shiny Takato
EH?
NO WAY!
WHAT'S WRONG?

HEY!
IT CAN'T BE TRUE!
I-I'M SORRY! I'M GOING HOME NOW!!
...?
ARE YOU BY ANY CHANCE ...
...TAKATO-KUN?
YOU SHOWED THAT TO HER?!

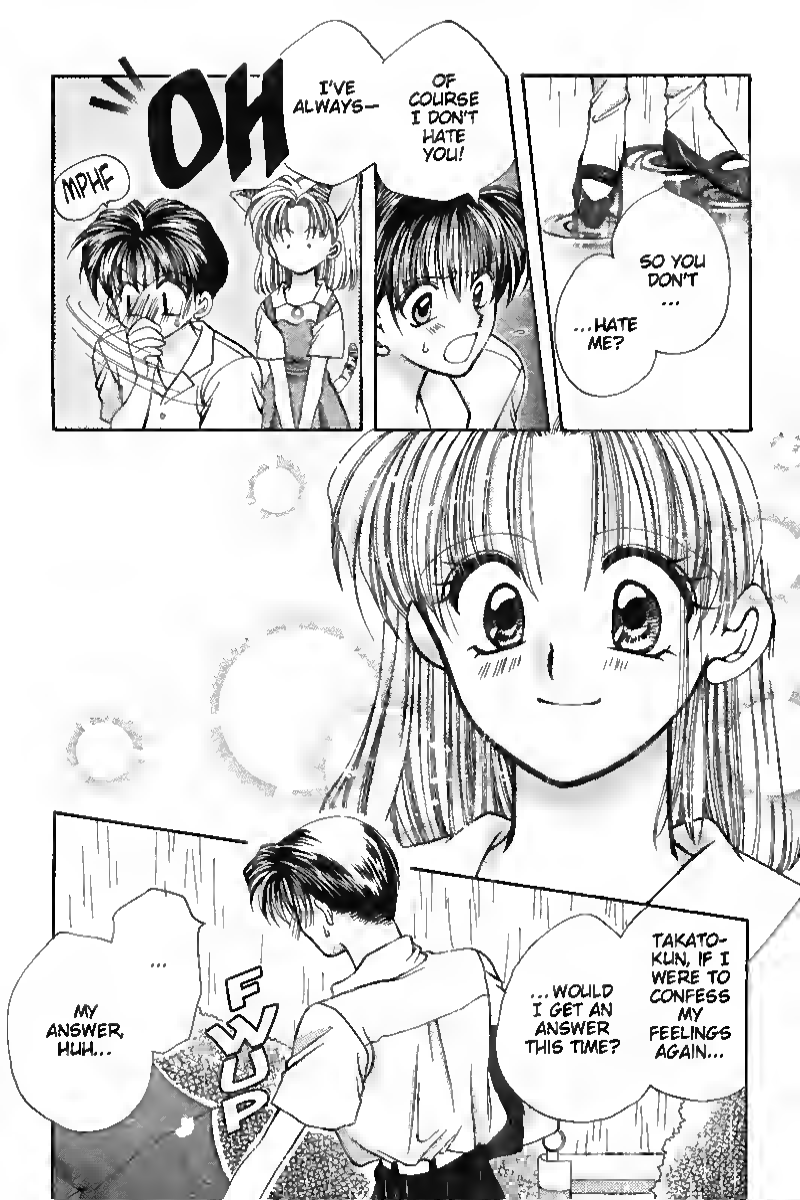

TAKATO STOPPED BELIEVING IN LOVE BECAUSE OF ME...
...AND HERE I AM SAYING THINGS LIKE "TOMORROW I HOPE IT RAINS" AND TELLING HIM I LIKE HIM.
I'VE BEEN SO PERSISTENT ...
SIGH
I'M SO EMBARRASSED.
I CAN'T FACE HIM AGAIN!

DID YOU HEAR?
YES...
IT SURE IS A SMALL WORLD, ISN'T IT?
I THOUGHT THAT SOMETHING WAS WEIRD.
I MEAN, WHY WOULD A GUY WHO AVOIDS GIRLS...
...TALK TO A GIRL WHO KEEPS PRETENDING TO FORGET HER UMBRELLA?
MAYBE ...
...THERE'S A REASON BEHIND IT.
ISN'T IT GREAT THAT THE SUN CAME OUT TODAY?
You don't have to worry about meeting him!
SO CHEER UP! OKAY?
BUT I'M SURE TAKATO-KUN IS MISERABLE RIGHT NOW!
DING
AIKAWA-SAN...

SAYURI-CHAN ...
I THOUGHT YOU WENT HOME.
I THINK YOU SHOULD ...
...TAKE A LOOK OUT THE WINDOW.
HE SAYS HE NEEDS TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT SOMETHING.
I brought him here.
TAKATO-KUN?!


HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
UM...
I'M... SORRY.
TAKATO-KUN!
DON'T WORRY, I HAVEN'T BEEN WAITING THAT LONG.
NOT FOR THAT!
DRIP
DRIP
I MEAN BACK THEN, WHEN I RAN AWAY WITHOUT ANSWERING YOU...
...AND...
...WHEN I DIDN'T REALIZE THAT YOU WERE...
...TAKATO-KUN ALL ALONG...

HONEST-LY!
I COULD NEVER UNDERSTAND WHY YOU ACTUALLY RAN AWAY FROM ME.
EVEN AFTER I WAS REJECTED, I ALWAYS WATCHED YOU AT THE STATION ...
...AND I SAW YOU DO THE SAME EXACT THING TO EVERY OTHER GUY!
I CAME TO REALIZE THAT YOU WERE JUST TOO EMBARRASSED TO COPE.
GONK
KUSH
YARK
EH?
A MONTH AGO, WHEN YOU CALLED OUT TO ME...
...TO SHARE MY UMBRELLA ...
...I WAS REALLY HAPPY.


OH
I'VE ALWAYS—
OF COURSE I DON'T HATE YOU!
MPHF
SO YOU DON'T ...
...HATE ME?
TAKATO-KUN, IF I WERE TO CONFESS MY FEELINGS AGAIN...
...WOULD I GET AN ANSWER THIS TIME?
FWUP
...
MY ANSWER, HUH...

RAINY AFTERNOONS ARE FOR ROMANTIC HEROINES/END

The Style of
the Second Love

MANA, ISN'T THERE SOMEONE YOU LIKE?
HUH?
JOLT
WHY DO YOU WANT TO KNOW, YUME-CHAN?
BECAUSE YOU'RE ABOUT TO EAT THE COOKIES YOU MADE. A GIRL IS SUPPOSED TO GIVE HER HOME EC SPOILS TO THE BOY SHE LIKES.

NAKAMURA-KUN!
SHH!
HEH HEH HEH
SHE LIKES ME!
I'M BASICALLY YOUR BEST FRIEND, SO TELL ME!
THERE'S GOTTA BE SOMEONE, RIGHT?
SCARF SCARF
TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP
STOP!
SHI-CHAN, SHI-CHAN.
Where is he?
...
NAKAMURA-KUN?
...LOVER BOY?
GEH
ARE YOU RUNNING AWAY FROM YOUR FAN CLUB AGAIN...

OH? SO YOU'RE MANA'S ...
A younger man!
DON'T BELIEVE HIM, YUME-CHAN!!
SUFF
YEAH. EVEN THOUGH I KEEP TELLING THEM YOU'RE MY HOT GIRL-FRIEND ...
...THEY JUST WON'T GIVE UP...
I AM NOT YOUR GIRLFRIEND!!
NAKAMURA-KUN IS ALWAYS HANGING AROUND...
...BUT I'M NOT INTERESTED IN A PLAYER LIKE HIM.
YOU KNOW MONO ERASERS?
YES.
SO WHAT'S YOUR TYPE THEN?
NAKAMURA-KUN... WHY ARE YOU STILL HERE?
OH YEAH I WANTED TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING

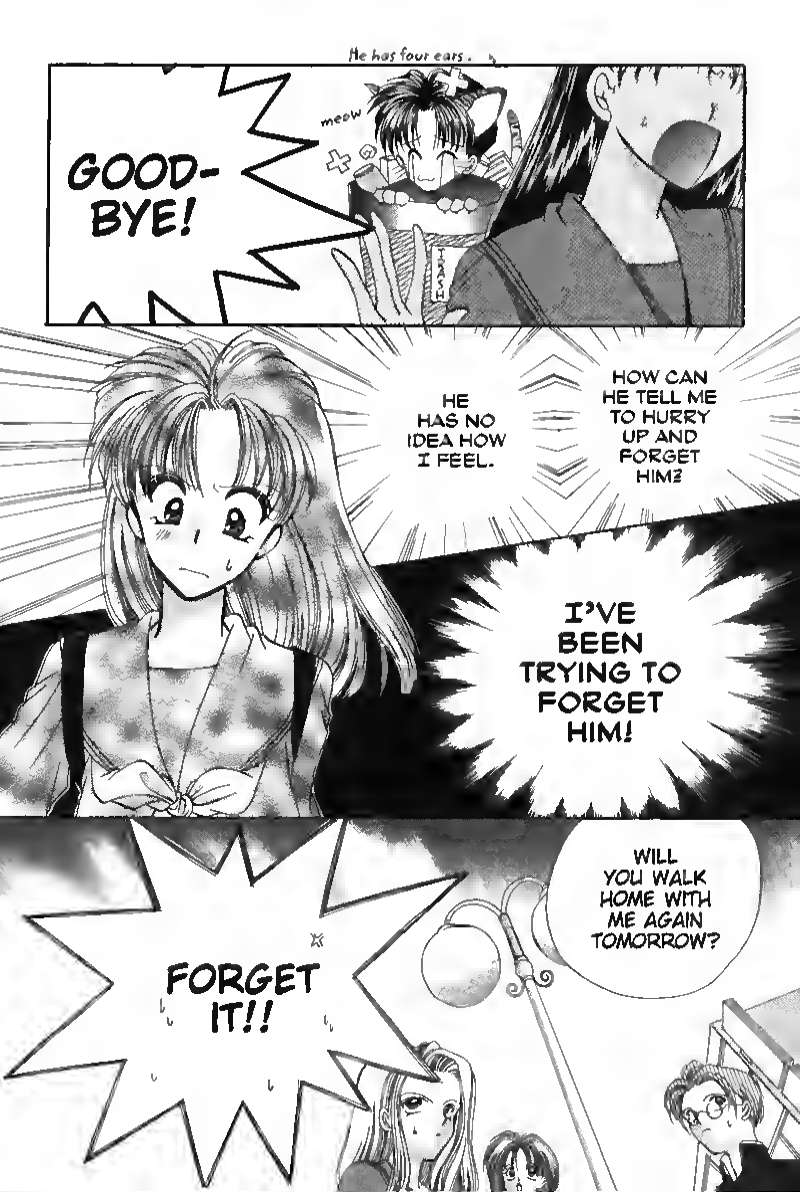
...IT BECOMES A MANA ERASER!!
See?
MANA
TOMBO
IF I CHANGE THE O'S TO A'S...
SKRTCH SKRTCH
TA-DAH!
materials used correction tape
permanent marker
YUME...
AH! NISHIKAWA-KUN.
TMP
TMP
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU! THROW IT AWAY!
NO, I'M GOING TO TREASURE IT FOREVER. ♡
HA HA HA
MANA
OH, GOOD. I THINK I FOOLED HER...
EVEN IF YUME IS MY BEST FRIEND, I STILL CAN'T TELL HER ...

SEE YA.
BYE-BYE, MANA.
BYE-BYE.
---THAT THE BOY I LIKE ---
...IS HER BOYFRIEND.
AAH, SHE'S SO LUCKY.
lovey dovey
SIGH
IT'S FUTILE ...
WHAT IS?
ARE YOU FINISHED WITH HOME EC?
LET'S GO HOME.

WHY SHOULD I HAVE TO WALK HOME WITH YOU, NAKA—
SHI-CHAN!
SIGH
ACK!
WHAT ARE YOU STILL DOING HERE?!
HUH?
MY FIRST NAME IS SHIGENOBU, SO CALL ME SHI-CHAN. ♡
HEY, WHY DON'T WE WALK HOME TOGETHER TOO? ♡
NO WAY.
FWOOOM
WAAH! YOU DIDN'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT. YOU DON'T HAVE TO HIT ME WITH YOUR SLIPPER TOO.
Heh
HE'S HOPELESS...
GIGGLE

But I'm so happy!
WOULD YOU PLEASE STOP SKIPPING!
It's embarrassing!
SKIP
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE'VE WALKED HOME TOGETHER.
still skipping
THEY'RE STILL HERE...
I thought they'd left
SHE'S GIVING HIM THE COOKIES SHE MADE TODAY.
HE LOOKS REALLY HAPPY ...

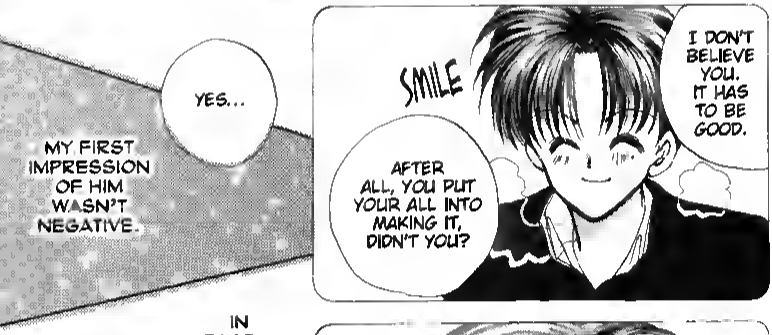
...THE GUY YOU LIKE?
THIS IS DEPRESS-ING.
JOLT
BLUSH
YES, IT'S DEFINITELY FUTILE.
THERE'S NO WAY HE'LL EVER BE YOURS.
IS YUME-SAN'S BOYFRIEND ...
AND YOUR POINT IS?
HURRY UP AND FORGET HIM SO YOU CAN GO OUT WITH ME.

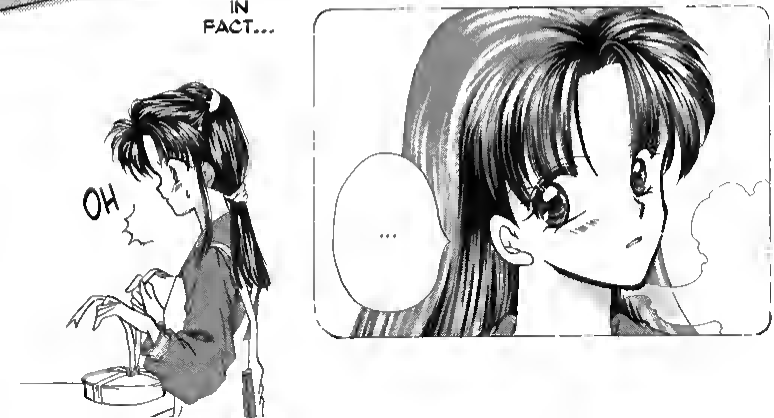

He has four ears.
GOOD-BYE!
meow
TRASH
HOW CAN HE TELL ME TO HURRY UP AND FORGET HIM?
HE HAS NO IDEA HOW I FEEL.
I'VE BEEN TRYING TO FORGET HIM!
WILL YOU WALK HOME WITH ME AGAIN TOMORROW?
FORGET IT!!

WOW! MANA, YOUR APPLE PIE LOOKS WONDERFUL!
Home Ec
CHUFF
AW, THANKS...
EVERYTHING YOU MAKE LOOKS SO PROFES-SIONAL...
BLEHH
MINE, ON THE OTHER HAND...
ZZT ZZT
BUT DIDN'T YOU MAKE THIS FOR YOUR AND NISHIKAWA-KUN'S ANNIVER-SARY?
EH... WHAT'S THIS?
I WANT TO HEAR!
GLOW
UM...
THE DAY AFTER HE CONFESSED HIS FEELINGS TO ME...
...I GAVE HIM A PIE AS MY ANSWER. ♡
Really?
Oh, tell me
YUME-CHAN ASKED ME TO GO WITH HER WHEN SHE GAVE HIM THE PIE.
AP

...I MET THAT GUY TOO...
THAT DAY...
AND...
NO ONE WANTS MY APPLE PIE...
SHP
POK
CROSSED IN LOVE...
HE'S THE ONE WHO ASKED HER OUT, SO THERE'S REALLY NOTHING I CAN DO.
WOW! THIS LOOKS DELICIOUS!

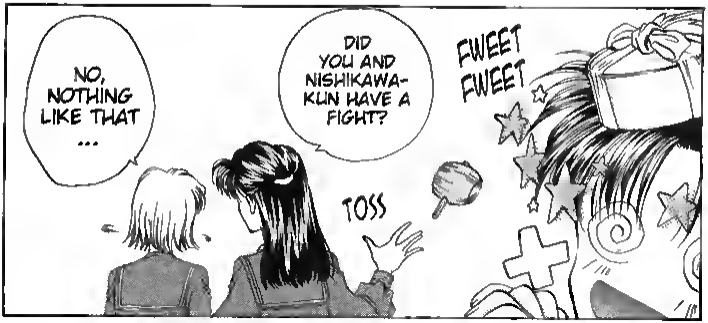
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, NAKAMURA-KUN?
OH, YOU KNOW WHO I AM?
OF COURSE. ARE YOU RUNNING AWAY FROM SOME GIRLS, WOLF-KUN?
HOW'D YOU KNOW?
SAY, CAN I HAVE THIS?!
IT'S NOT THAT GOOD.


I DON'T BELIEVE YOU. IT HAS TO BE GOOD.
SMILE
AFTER ALL, YOU PUT YOUR ALL INTO MAKING IT, DIDN'T YOU?
YES...
MY FIRST IMPRESSION OF HIM WASN'T NEGATIVE.


IN FACT...
...
OH

STOP IT, MANA!
UNTIL YOU'VE COMPLETELY GOTTEN OVER NISHIKAWA-KUN, YOU SHOULDN'T EVEN THINK ABOUT HIM!!
HALT
MANA, WE'RE DONE!
Let's go home.
MANA-CHAN!
WHAT'D YOU MAKE?
AN APPLE PIE. WHY?!
APPLE PIE?!

HUH?
UNLIKE MANA'S, IT'S PROBABLY JUST AVERAGE, BUT...
WHY THE HECK IS MY HEART THUMPING NOW?
IT'S NOT FOR YOU!
I WANT TO EAT IT!♡
PLEASE?
YOU CAN HAVE MINE.
...MANA-CHAN'S HOMEMADE PIES! ♡
I ONLY WANT TO EAT ...
SHEEN
IT'S JUST THAT ...
GULP
YUME, THAT'S NOT TRUE—
SORRY, YUME-CHAN.


NO, NOTHING LIKE THAT ...
DID YOU AND NISHIKAWA-KUN HAVE A FIGHT?
TOSS
FWEET FWEET

THAT'S ODD...
I WONDER WHY I'M SO CALM ABOUT IT.
I WONDER IF THERE'S A PROBLEM?
Hee hee
DON'T WORRY.
I WONDER WHY-I...
HEY! YAMAGUCHI!

THERE'S A GUY AT THE SCHOOL GATE...
...ASKING ALL THE THIRD-YEAR GIRLS IF THEY KNOW A "MANA-CHAN."
IS HE A FRIEND OF YOURS?
ME?!
YAMAGUCHI
THAT ...!
KRAK KRAK
?
HYOOOO
What's up?
UH, YAMAGUCHI ?!
STUPID IDIOT!!

I'M LEAVING!
He's such a player!
NAKAMURA-KUN...
(creepy voice)
WAIT FOR ME! SEE YOU LATER, GIRLS. ♡
EH?!
YOU'RE LEAVING TOO?
NOOO!
TMP
THERE YOU ARE, MANA-CHAN!
AH!
Hi! ♥
Oh, that girl?
Hmm
SQUEE SQUEE
WHOOSH
WHOOSH
INSTANT HAREM
HALT
NISHIKAWA-KUN TOLD M—
MANA-CHAN, HOW DID YOU KNOW I WAS WAITING FOR YOU AT THE GATE?
The power of love!
HUH?
...

I JUST SPOKE TO NISHIKAWA-KUN...
MANA-CHAN?
YUP
...AND MY HEART DIDN'T BEAT ANY FASTER.
ALL I COULD THINK ABOUT WAS THIS GUY...
NAKAMURA-KUN...
WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT ME?
WISH
YOUR FACE.
SMILE
JUST KIDDING!

AT FIRST I DID FALL IN LOVE WITH YOUR LOOKS...
...BUT NOW I REALLY ADMIRE ...
...YOUR INNER STRENGTH.
MANA-CHAN, YOU DECIDED NOT TO GIVE ME A CHANCE...
...UNTIL YOU CAN FORGET THAT GUY NISHIKAWA, RIGHT?
YOU'RE WORRIED THAT IF YOU STILL LIKE SOMEONE ELSE...
...YOU'D JUST HURT ME IF YOU WENT OUT WITH ME.
THAT IS TRUE KINDNESS.
I DON'T HAVE THAT, AND THAT'S WHY I CAN'T REJECT GIRLS.

I REALLY ...
...REALLY LIKE YOU.
I KNOW NOW...
...THAT MY HEART IS FINALLY READY TO FORGET NISHIKAWA-KUN.
AND THE GUY WHO HELPED ME IS...
GIVE ME YOUR HAND!
HUH?

SKCH
SKCH
SKCH
THAT TICKLES!
HA!
OBEDIENT
OKAY!
YOUR HAND! NOW!
VUMP
?
THERE!
SEE YOU LATER!
DASH

WAIT FOR ME, OKAY?
PLEASE WAIT JUST A LITTLE LONGER.
SOMEDAY SOON... I THINK I'LL BE READY SOMEDAY SOON.
I FEEL REALLY GOOD.
HEE HEE!
I REALLY TOLD HIM.
I TOLD HIM!
Well, I wrote it...
HUFF
HUFF

OH.
YOU'RE BACK.
YUME ...
YOU HAD A FIGHT ?!
WHY? OVER WHAT?
YOU WERE GETTING ALONG SO WELL!
IT'S YOUR FAULT.
BLUNT
EH?
B-BMP
YOUR ...

Mana's homemade cheesecake (half-eaten)
...HOMEMADE SWEETS ARE...
YUP
...JUST TOO DELICIOUS !!
HUH?
JUST KIDDING.
WHEW. I WAS WORRIED THERE FOR A SEC.
NISHIKAWA-KUN REALLY LOVES HOMEMADE SWEETS.
BUT I'M TERRIBLE AT MAKING THEM.
I burn them.
BUT HE KEPT SAYING HE WANTED THEM.
AND THAT MADE MY HEART HURT...

I GUESS YOURS ARE JUST MORE DELICIOUS.
IS THAT WHY YOU TRIED TO GIVE NAKAMURA-KUN YOUR APPLE PIE TODAY?
YES. I DIDN'T WANT TO GIVE IT TO NISHIKAWA-KUN.
BUT NAKAMURA-KUN WOULDN'T TAKE IT.
KLAP
OH, THAT'S RIGHT! HE SAID HE WANTED TO EAT PIES THAT ONLY YOU MAKE.
HMMM ...
I THINK HE MAY HAVE A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT REASON.
But .
THE PIE YOU MADE CAUSED YOUR FIGHT, THEN?
WHEN I SAID I WOULDN'T GIVE IT TO HIM, HE GOT MAD.
A-ANYWAY ...
BLUSH

SO GIVE IT TO HIM AND MAKE UP.
BUT IT TASTES TERRIBLE!
IT DOESN'T MATTER.
YOU JUST SAID IT YOURSELF.
YOU TOLD ME NAKAMURA-KUN WANTED TO EAT MY PIES.
THE SAME GOES FOR YOU.
NISHIKAWA-KUN WANTS TO EAT ONLY WHAT YOU MAKE.
IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW IT TASTES.
...

WOO HOO!
Gats!
I'M GOING TO GO APOLOGIZE!
KRRK
IF YOU EVER HAVE A FIGHT WITH NAKAMURA-KUN, COME TO ME, OKAY?
IT WAS NOTHING.
I FEEL SO MUCH BETTER.
MANA, THANK YOU.
THAT WAS JUST A LITTLE WHILE AGO.
I WAS SURPRISED AT HOW EASY IT WAS TO TELL YUME-CHAN TO GO AND MAKE UP WITH HIM.
WELL, YOU LIKE HIM, DON'T YOU?
Busted.
WHY BRING HIM INTO THIS?!

TMP
TMP
TMP
HE CAME!
I...
I'M FINALLY OVER IT.

TOMORROW'S SATURDAY. LET'S DO SOMETHING!
MANA-CHAN!
PA POOH
NO.
I'm baking sweets with Yume.
YOU STILL HAVE THAT THING?!
!
YOU'RE SO COLD.
MY MANA ERASER SAYS THE SAME THING!
AFTER ALL...
I TOLD YOU I WAS GOING TO TREASURE IT MY WHOLE LIFE!
I WANT TO...
ARGH! I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT THAT STUPID ERASER RIGHT NOW!!
AAAH!
FLAIL

Hm?
IT'S MANA-CHAN'S ...
...TINY ALTER EGO.
MANA-CHAN, ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?
Y-YES, OF COURSE
THE MANA ERASER'S EGO IS LIKE ME, RIGHT?
Wrong!
I WAS LISTENING, BUT...

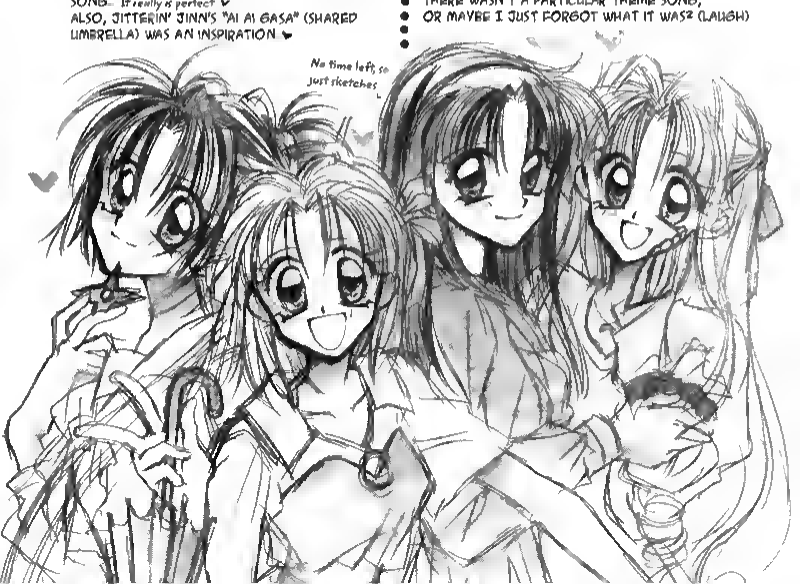
...TREATING THAT SMALL "ME" WITH GREAT CARE.
I GUESS HE'S...
SO PLEASE ...
SOB
How cruel—
...TREAT THE REAL ME...
UM, SHI-CHAN? HOW ABOUT THE DAY AFTER TOMOR-ROW?
I'M FREE THEN.
...JUST AS CAREFULLY, OKAY?

RAINY AFTERNOONS ARE FOR ROMANTIC HEROINES

THIS WAS MY SECOND MANGA AFTER MY DEBUT. THE TITLE WAS A TAKE-OFF OF A CD MY FRIEND HAD. I THINK IT WAS SHINICHI ISHIHARA'S "NICHIYOU NO GOGO WA MISUTERI NO HIROIN" (SUNDAY AFTERNOONS ARE FOR MYSTERY HEROINES). THE THEME WAS ABOUT WALKING HOME IN THE RAIN. IN OTHER WORDS, IN THE AFTERNOON, YOU CAN BECOME THE MAIN CHARACTER IN A LOVE STORY. ANYWAY, THAT WAS THE SITUATION MINORI WAS IN. IT WAS A STORY I HAD WANTED TO WRITE EVEN BEFORE MY DEBUT, SO SEEING IT BECOME A REALITY MADE ME REALLY HAPPY. (BUT THE ROUGH LAYOUT TOOK OVER THREE MONTHS TO FINISH. UGH.) THE OPENING ILLUSTRATION WAS ALSO SIGNIFICANT. MINORI-CHAN, WHO PRAYED AT NIGHT FOR RAIN THE NEXT DAY, MADE THE TERUTERU BOZU CRY. SHE WAS KIND OF SHY, AND I QUITE LIKED HER. ANYWAY, I DECIDED THAT MINORI-CHAN SHOULD BE SUPER-CUTE, AND SO I MADE HER APPEARANCE, HER SPEECH, HER GESTURES—EVERYTHING ABOUT HER—CUTE. (WHEN I LOOK AT IT ALL NOW, I SEE AN OBVIOUS LACK OF FIRE. I'LL APPLY MYSELF MORE.) TAKATO'S NAME CAME FROM THE YOUNGER BROTHER OF A FRIEND (MALE). THAT'S RIGHT, IT'S HIS GIVEN NAME! BUT MY EDITOR TOLD ME THAT "TAKATO" WAS A WEIRD NAME. (I'M STILL SEETHING OVER THIS.) "IT'S GOOD BECAUSE IT'S A REAL NAME!" I COMPLAINED WHILE ANGRILY DRAWING. THE THEME SONG WAS RYOKO HIROSUE'S "MAJI DE KOISURU 5BYOU MAE" (FIVE SECONDS TO TRUE LOVE). SEI-CHAN, A HUGE AMEROMA FAN, SHOWED ME IT WAS THE PERFECT SONG. *It really is perfect.* ALSO, JITTERIN' JINN'S "AI AI GASA" (SHARED UMBRELLA) WAS AN INSPIRATION.

THIS LOVE IS NONFICTION

ARTIST'S TALK. THIS WAS MY FOURTH MANGA AFTER MY DEBUT. IT WAS THE FIRST MANGA IN WHICH THE OPENING PAGE WAS DONE IN COLOR. HOWEVER, I WAS EVEN MORE SURPRISED THAT IT BECAME THE OPENING MANGA IN AN EXTRA EDITION. (I WAS REALLY HAPPY, THOUGH!) I REALLY PUT A LOT INTO THE STORY WHEN I DREW IT. (SO THE ROUGH LAYOUT WAS LATE.), BUT THANKS TO THAT, IT'S ONE OF MY MOST POPULAR WORKS. KARIN-CHAN IS ALSO VERY POPULAR. (SHE'S REALLY POPULAR AMONG MY FRIENDS TOO.) I REMEMBER RECEIVING A LOT OF COMPLIMENTS. (THAT WAS DURING A PERIOD OF TIME WHEN I WAS REALLY WORRIED SO IT MADE ME QUITE HAPPY.) THE TRUTH IS THAT I LIKE WRITING ROMANTIC STORIES LIKE THIS. I'M STILL VERY TAKEN WITH THIS STORY AS FAR AS THE MEANING OF THE TITLE GOES—IT'S MEANT TO BE RYO-SAMA'S ANSWER TO KARIN-CHAN'S THOUGHTS AT THE END: "ROMANCE MIRACULOUSLY BLOOMED." IT'S REAL...AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT I MEANT IT TO SAY. YURI-CHAN WAS ALSO POPULAR. (IT ALWAYS SEEMS THAT PEOPLE NEVER HATE THE SUPPORTING CHARACTERS.) I LOVE DOLPHINS—WELL, ALL SEA CREATURES—AND I RECEIVED DOLPHIN PENDANTS FROM SOME FANS. THAT MADE ME HAPPY, AND I DECIDED TO WRITE THIS STORY. I LOVE GETTING PRESENTS FROM MY FANS, BUT PLEASE DON'T GO TO TOO MUCH TROUBLE. A LETTER IS ENOUGH TO MAKE MY DAY. THERE WASN'T A PARTICULAR THEME SONG, OR MAYBE I JUST FORGOT WHAT IT WAS. (LAUGH)



FIRST DRAFTS ARE USUALLY BETTER THAN THIS.* (THESE ARE TOO ROUGH.) I'M ACTUALLY NOT VERY GOOD AT DRAWING MALE CHARACTERS
THIS IS THE MOST POPULAR CHARACTER OF THESE FOUR.
RYO-SAMA WAS VERY POPULAR AS PART OF A COUPLE WITH KAORI.
YUMA-KUN IS THE SECOND-MOST POPULAR CHARACTER.
ABOUT HALF OF MY FANS BECAME FANS BECAUSE OF SHI-CHAN. THE POPULARITY OF MY DEBUT WORK WAS ALSO PROBABLY THANKS TO HIM.

AFTERWORD

OKAY, HOW WAS IT? THANKS FOR STICKING WITH ME WHILE I RABBLED ON. ♥ BUT LOVE STORIES ARE REALLY NICE, AREN'T THEY? ♥ NOWADAYS MANY ADULTS SAY, "SHOJO MANGA ARE BORING," BUT I'M FASCINATED MORE THAN EVER WITH READING MANGA (ESPECIALLY *RIBON*) ♥ I READ MOST OTHER MANGA AS TANKOBON. I DO BUY *JUMP*, THOUGH, BECAUSE I WRITE IN SEVERAL GENRES, I HATE TO BE FORCED INTO ONE CATEGORY BY THOSE KINDS OF PEOPLE (OKAY, SO I DON'T WRITE IN THAT MANY GENRES...) (LAUGH) BUT IF AN ARTIST DOESN'T HAVE EVEN ONE CHARACTERISTIC OR SPECIALTY, THEN THERE'S NO TRICK. (LAUGH) FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH, WITH MY MANGA, MY OVERALL GOAL IS TO SHOW THAT "TRUE LOVE IS THE ULTIMATE" (IT'S KIND OF DORKY WHEN I LOSE MYSELF IN IT, THOUGH...) IF YOU LIKE, PLEASE CONTINUE TO READ MY "BEST LOVE MANGA FOR GIRLS (OR BOYS) DREAMING ABOUT SOMETHING" ♥ I'LL WORK HARDER TOO, AND TRY TO DRAW MANGA BETTER EVERY DAY.

3 29 1998 ARINA T

THE STYLE OF THE SECOND LOVE

THIS IS MY DEBUT WORK. I WILL NEVER FORGET IT. (PLEASE DON'T SAY THE ART IS BAD!...OKAY?) I SUBMITTED IT WITH THE TITLE AND MARKED IT "TEMPORARY." (ITS ABBREVIATION IS "Z(TSU)-KOI") THE OTHERS HAVE BEEN SHORTENED TO "KANTAMA," "NONFIC," AND "AMEROMA" (SMILE) THE MEANING OF THE TITLE IS APPARENT, BUT IT ALSO RELATES TO THE ITEM THAT SHI-CHAN IS HOLDING IN THE OPENING ILLUSTRATION. WITH THAT ILLUSTRATION, I WANTED TO SHOW MANA-CHAN WINKING AT SHI-CHAN WHILE HE CALMLY PROTECTS HER. ♥ MY IMPETUS FOR WRITING THIS STORY WAS THAT MY FRIEND, SHI-CHAN (MALE), TOLD ME ABOUT MAKING A MANA ERASER FOR HIS GIRLFRIEND, AND IT REALLY MADE ME LAUGH. THEN ONE OF MY GIRLFRIENDS SAID, "YOU HAVE TO USE THAT IN A MANGA!" I REDID THE DRAFTS FOR THIS MANGA ABOUT SEVEN TIMES—FOR ALL 32 PAGES. SHEER DETERMINATION GOT ME TO THE END OF THIS MANGA. HOWEVER, THIS STORY WAS THE ONE THAT ALLOWED ME TO CONTINUE DRAWING MANGA. (ALONG WITH MY EDITOR ♥) THANK YOU VERY MUCH. THE THEME SONG WAS SUGGESTED BY A FAN, AND IT'S TOKYO Q CHANNEL'S "SUNAO NO MAMA DE KOI O SHIYO YO" (LET'S FALL IN LOVE STRAIGHT-FORWARDLY.) I CAN IMAGINE MANA-CHAN AND SHI-CHAN LATER ON, AND IT'S A GOOD FEELING.

Short-Tempered Melancholic Notes

The suffixes *–kun* and *–chan* are added to a person's name to show familiarity. The suffix *–sama* is added to show respect for someone who is higher up in the social hierarchy. For an upperclassman, *–senpai* is used to show respect.

Page 4: A *kunoichi* is a female ninja.

Page 6: There's a Japanese saying that hearing the same thing over and over gives you a callus in your ear. *Tako* can mean either "callus" or "octopus."

Page 17: *Nee–san* means "older sister," but the term can also refer to an older woman who is not related to the speaker. *Nee–yan* is a cutesy nickname for nee–san.

Page 28: *Kureha* means "crimson leaf."

Page 38: *Sobakasu* means "freckles."

Page 40: *Oden* is a kind of fish stew made with fish cakes, daikon, and other ingredients cooked in a fish broth.

Page 79: *Anmitsu* is a dessert of jelly and red bean paste with sweet syrup.

Page 86: *Ojou–sama* is comparable to "young miss."

Page 119: The star is a pun on *zuboshi*, which means "bull's–eye."

Page 143: The "ding" and the incense stick are a gag to show Minori has died. Her classmates are paying their respects.

Page 182: *Teruteru bozu* is a handmade doll (they look like the "ghosts" you made in kindergarten) hung outside to prevent rain.

Page 183: *Ribon* and *Jump* are manga magazines in Japan.

Kanika–chan, Karin–chan, Minori–chan, Mana–chan—even now I'm so proud they live in the pages of *my* manga, laughing and crying. I really love them. I hope they live happily ever after. ♥

Arina Tanemura was born in Aichi, Japan. She got her start in 1996, publishing *Nibanme no Koi no Katachi* (The Style of the Second Love) in *Ribon Original* magazine. Two of her titles, *Kamikaze Kaito Jeanne* and *Full Moon*, were made into popular TV series. Tanemura enjoys karaoke and is a huge *Lord of the Rings* fan

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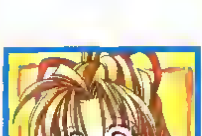

作品簡介

繼承了忍者血統的小敏，是個活潑開朗的女孩子，她為了使自己喜歡的薰靖學長也喜歡上她，便決定讓自己變得更像女孩子。

可是，學長竟然就是那個想要取她的家傳武器，名叫「隼人」的忍者

小敏能順利地擊退想要取家傳武器的人嗎？

小鰍的憂鬱

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